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Wednesday April 17



# INTERNATIONAL Guardia

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Sarah says: 'Andrew is a darling, but a boring darling'

'l always pay my way' 'Life is not about

gossip or tittle-tattle, it

is the air we breathe --

being nice to people'

'it wasn't that I lacked

will or ability. I simply

didn't know what was

And what they

say about her:

vulgar, vulgar, vulgar'

— Princess Michael

experienced woman

who can tell me a lot'

-Thomas Muster,

tennis player

-Lord Charteris, the Queen's former

private secretary 'She devalues the

currency'

of Kent 'She is an

expected of me'

'A vulgarian . . .

Why everybody loves the MP for Ladywood

David Steel's son and the cannabis plant

Society oblivion

G2 pages 12/13

Queen agrees to £2m divorce settlement but Sarah Ferguson is left with huge and mounting debts

# Palace cuts Duchess adrift

### First step to end marriage in court today

**Edward Pilkington** 

Duchess of York are to divorce at the end of next month, ending four years of un-certainty about their future and heralding the final freezing out of Sarah Ferguson from the royal family.

It is understood that the

duchess will be paid £2 million under the settlement in return for agreeing to be cut adrift from the monarchy. The pay-off was formulated three years ago at the time of the couple's legal separation, and is framed primarily with their children in mind.

Buckingham Palace said the Queen has been informed of the official split and was 'saddened" by the news. The announcement comes five days before her 70th hirthday. The duke and duchess an-nounced their decision to part

through their solicitors -Henry Boyd-Carpenter of the firm used by the Queen, Far-rer & Co, on behalf of Prince Andrew, and Douglas Alexion of Gordon Dadds for the

A joint statement from the lawyers stressed that the deci-sion to end the marriage was taken by the royal couple. "The decision is a personal one, and theirs alone."

The comment ran counter to suggestions that the couple were under pressure from the Queen to end their marital limbo. It is understood that the Queen last month wrote to Prince Andrew urging him to divorce in terms similar to her earlier letters to the Prince and Princess of Wales, a suggestion denied by the

In a further parallel with the negotiations with Prin-cess Diana, the duchess will lose the title "Her Royal High-ness", while continuing to be called the Duchess of York. The official statement said the HRH style, although the palace would almost certainly have resisted any attempt on her part to retain it.
The statement continued

that "at the express wish of the duke and duchess and in the interests of their children, which they regard as of paramount importance, no further statement will be made or in-formation provided".

The children, Beatrice aged seven, and Eugenie, six, will continue to live with the duchess, and both parents will participate fully in their upbringing. In practice, that implies that the girls, who are fifth and sixth in line to the throne, will spend most of their time with their mother, enjoying the company of Prince Andrew only when he is on leave from naval duties. Fears that the children will suffer from the duchess's frequent travelling strongly influenced negotiations over

her financial settlement. Since March 1992, when sepa-ration was first mooted, the children's stability has been jeopardised by moves from the couple's mansion at Sunninghill into a rented home, Romenda Lodge, in Surrey, and by the loss of their two

A sum of \$155 million is to be placed in twist for the girls from which \$500,000 is under house that they will eventually own. Further money will be set aside to provide a cash income for the young

The Queen is understood to have stood her ground in refusing to ball out the dach-ess, who has acute financial problems. Her debts, understood to be about £3 million, are unlikely to be cleared by

The final agreement may see the duchess paid as little as £500,000, probably not as a lump sump. Although Prince Andrew will pick up the tab for school fees and cover some of her rent out of his £249,000 allowance from the Queen, that still leaves the duchess's lavish spending and debts to account for. The Archbishop of York said he was praying for the couple, adding that "such de-

cisions are never made easily".
Toby Jessel, MP for Twick-



The Duke and Duchess of York remain good friends despite the agreement to divorce, four years after their separation

person of sheer unabastied greater than my expect moving in starkly opposing directions. Prince Andrew, vulgarity, not in keeping with Britain's royal traditions". Fellow Tory John Butcher, MP for Coventry, said: "Fergle would have been more suited maried to Bob Geldoi than to the son of the Queen."

Lord St John of Fawsley, the royal expert, said: "I hope that stories about the Yorks will disappear from the headlines now, but my hopes are

The divorce adds to the history of marital breakup in the duchess's family. When she was 14 her parents broke up after her mother, Susan, left her father for an Argentine polo player. The duchess's sister, Jane Makim, had an acrimonious divorce in 1989. Life after divorce is likely

who is thought to have just returned from naval exer-cises, has been focusing on his career. The duchess, who is skiing in Switzerland with the children, has attempted to focus media attention on her charity work, particularly with the American-based Chances for Children, but has been unable to avoid public-

and financial crisis. The first step in the issuing of a decree nisi will take place today. The case of "HRH the Duke of York V ERH the Duchess of York" is listed among 29 uncontested di-vorces to be heard at the family division of the High Court

in London. Decline and fall, page 3

spread company failures

soon. The consultants warn that, apart from job loses in the industry, the effect will be more general unemployment,

lower tax receipts and a blow to the balance of payments.

The European Court will be asked for "interim relief within weeks" and a declaration that the ban on British

beef is illegal.
The Prime Minister is to

write to the German, French and Italian leaders and to

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, demanding they take early action to lift the ban. This fol-

lows comments by Franz

Fischler, the agriculture com-missioner, that the ban was

almed at saving the European beaf market, not protecting the public health.

Downing Street said Mr

turn to page 2, column 3

## Prague Writers' Festival 1996

The Viola Theatre. May 9-11

This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Under the festival's theme of "Ancient Evenings", writers including R.S. Thomas from Wales, Sylva Fischerová of the Czech Republic, and Jim Barnes from the USA will be presenting their work at the festival. There visitors can enjoy a rare opportunity to listen to, and meet, these renowned international authors.

> For more details call: 44 (0) 171 7134133

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The Guardian

## Poverty, what poverty? says Lilley Beef crisis 'will cost 28,000 jobs and taxpaver \$550m in first year'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

628

INISTERS are rener ing on a community to draw up measures to tackle poverty in Britain because they say such action is needed only in Third World

The move will inflame controversy over the extent of poverty in this country. It will be seen as a smub to the United Nations, which has declared 1996 the international year for the eradication

of poverty.
Peter Lilley, the Social
Security Secretary, has told
welfare campaigners the Government will not be introducing a national poverty eradication plan as agreed by countries including Britain at last year's UN summit on social development in

In a letter on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr Lilley Rich pickings

Why the poor aren't poor, by Peter Lilley: ☐ They have clean water ☐ Food supplies are adequate

☐ Most have central heating Almost half have a car Three in four are on the phone More than half bave a

says: "It is our view that the recommendations ... principally relate to the n underdeveloped countries, which need to harness their economies to achieve basic goals such as the provision of clean water and adequate

food supplies.
"The UK [already has] the infrastructure and social protection systems to prevent poverty and maintain living ain's behalf. The program standards."

A Foreign Office spokes man yesterday confirmed that John Major had replied in similar vein to Boutros Boutros Chali, the UN Secretary-General, who had asked what Britain was doing. The Government's cold shoulder to the UN, has emerged as a report today claims poverty is growing faster in Britain than in most

The report, published by the Child Poverty Action Group, says one in three children is growing up in pov-erty. In 1979, the figure was people is living in poverty, compared with one in seven when the Tories took office.

The Copenhagen summit in March last year was attended by Whitehall officials and Lady Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, who signed a joint declaration and lopment, who programme of action on Brit-

commits countries to enact national plans to "establish, within each national context strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute

poverty". Mr Lilley's response come after a coalition of 18 anti-poverty groups support-ing the UN year, including Oxfam, Save the Children and the Low Pay Unit, inquired bow Britain was fulfilling its

Paul Goggins, national co-ordinator of Church Action on Poverty pressure group, who chairs the anti-poverty coalition, said: "There can be no doubt that the programme of action requires countries to put in place a plan of pov-erty eradication. They must have known what they were signing up to."

and taxpayer £550m in first year'

Paul Brown, David Hencke and Stephen Betes

RHE beef crisis will cost 28,000 people their jobs and the taxpayer £550 million in compensation this year, the Government said sterday as it announced a eries of measures to restor

onfidence in the market. John Major said he would go to the European Court of Justice to challenge the worldwide ban on British beef and ruled out a mass cull of cattle. Instead, 40,000 tonnes of

beef in cold stores are to be destroyed at a cost of £80 mil-lion. Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants commissioned to advise ministers on the crisis. do not expect the industry to recover for five years and say the ban on exports will last at Unsold meat worth £132

million had been found, which could lead to wide-

Demand 'won't recover for five years', page 5; Leader comment, page 8

> Comment and Letters 8 Oblivaries 10 Parents 4/5; Arts 8/9 Radio 16: TV 16

World News

princy closin the Net Book Agreement, is ASDA; which helped England's row with its fellow five : nations competitors over television rights to Rugby Union has deepened.

Rail views

When British Rail is fully privatised

Conservatives remain loyal to the Government, with 54 per cent saying privatisation

will mean better services and

ers expect services to be less

safe after privatisation, com-pared with 34 per cent who believe they will be safer, and

24 per cent don't knows Again, Labour and Liberal Democrat voters are more worried about safety than

Tory voters expect safer

services by a majority of

more than two to one. Young voters, aged 18-24, also show

n clear majority believing that services will be safer, but older voters and those in all

regions and social classes

disagree.

• ICM interviewed a random

sample of 1,200 adults aged over 18 over April 12-13. In-

terviews were conducted

across the country and the

results weighted to the profile of all adults.

conservatives.

24 saying they will be worse Forty-three per cent of vot-

#### Sketch

### Monologues take over the asylum



Simon Hoggart

Ps RETURNED to
Westminster eager to
discuss one of the worst humiliations ever inflicted on a great party, an event which may, all at once, have put the result of the next election beyond doubt.
The trouble is that there is

only so much mileage to be gained from Clare Short's tax "gaffe". Instead, to the Tories' annoyance, they were con-stantly sidetracked to the triv-ial topic of the Staffordshire South-East byelection.

The ceremonial role of Chief Gloater Pursuivant fell to Edward O'Hara (Lab. Knowlsey S). He pointed out Alan Duncan (C. Rutland) had been the "mastermind" of the

Tory campaign.
A day or so before polling he had told his local newspaper that, while some were predicting an easy Labour victory. nothing could be further from the truth".

As his colleagues gurgled, like happy, well-fed babies, Mr O'Hara asked for Mr Duncan to be put in charge of all byelection campaigns — and

the general election too.

Mr Major told him not to be
so smug. "Talk to the member
for Mid-Staffordshire, and
you will learn that by election osses become general elec-

tion gains!"
It is always a good idea to talk to the delightful Michael Fabricant — although Mr
O'Hara might also learn that the Wigged Wanderer is so un-sure of holding his seat that he is quitting it for another. Harry Greenway (C, Ealing N) yanked the subject round to Clare Short. What was to stop

her paying more tax now? he This called forth a rare Major joke. "I am glad she has been untied and ungagged and is free to attend today!" be

said. The greasier Tory MPs laughed politely. Mr Blair said Mr Major was

First night

Caroline Sullivan

"HIS show has already

Presley died in 1977, its cre-

ators wasted no time in stag-

ing an all-singing, all-dancing tribute, which won an Eve-

ning Standard drama award.

wafted around the original

production, this revival is with us simply because there

are still people who get ex-cited about all matters Elvis.

Personally, I'd have waited

death next summer to maxi-

mise profits, but those in-volved seem to be doing it for

That lends a touchingly

nomespun quality to some of

the acting - not unexpected,

given that cast members like

P. J. Proby are musicians by

trade. This little problem, and

the fact that Young Elvis and Middle Elvis are played by Brits (Alexander Bar and Tim

Whitnall), is dealt with by cut-

ting dialogue to a minimum. But what Proby (Mature El-

makes up for in saturnine in-

tensity, sneering that sneer and rumbling in a Texas

drawl. Whitnall. too, is a charged-up wonder, con-

stantly shaking his thang,

next to these two. Bar can

there's nothing weird about Elvis, no allegories or alarm-

vis) lacks as a thespian, he

the 1960s trouser-splitter

love rather than money.

till the 20th anniversary of his

If the scent of opportunism

strutted its spangly jump suit once before. After

Elvis — The Musical

about tax rises. But then he too changed the subject. These days Prime Minister's Questions is in no way an inter-change. It is a series of separate monologues ignored by everyone else present, as if taking place in the lounge of an insane asylum. What, asked Mr Blair, was

the reason for the Tories' hu-miliating by election defeat? Mr Major didn't answer, but wanted to know instead about the briefing on tax which Mr Blair had given journalists during his flight to New York last week. Exactly what the Labour leader meant on this occasion is in doubt, although some present, such as the Financial Times's reporter Rob-ert Peston, thought he had indicated that people earning over £40.000 could expect to

over £40.000 could expect to pay more tax. Since then, day after weari-some day, Mr Peston has been loudly reviled in the coarsest language by Alistair Camp-bell. Mr Blair's chief "spin

As a medical man, Mr Campbell most closely resem-bles Dr Kervorkian, the Amer-ican physician who kills people suffering from painful, terminal illnesses — although Dr Kervorkian does seek their

agreement first. The loonies continued to harangue and ignore each other. Someone would yell something about Clare Short, and someone else would scream,

what about the byelection? Finally, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (C. Cirencester) asked a question which combined sycophancy and irrelevance to such a degree that the Speaker refused to allow the Prime Minister to answer it, and called the next question. This is something I have never seen before. I won't bore you with the

details, but its creepy circum-locutions again concerned Mr Blair's words on BA 175. As he had just complained, "they always want me to answer questions — and in a few months' time, they'll get the chance!" Later the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, an-nounced a new method for combating public anxiety

troduce a system of "compulsory animal passports". It sounds a good idea, although I don't see how they are going to squeeze the cows into those little photo booths.

that the Eivster might have

eaten a few too many toffe

burgers, but he was still a

And when they say The Mu-

sical, they mean just that. The three Elvises and a Pan's

People is hensemble get through dozens of songs, in-

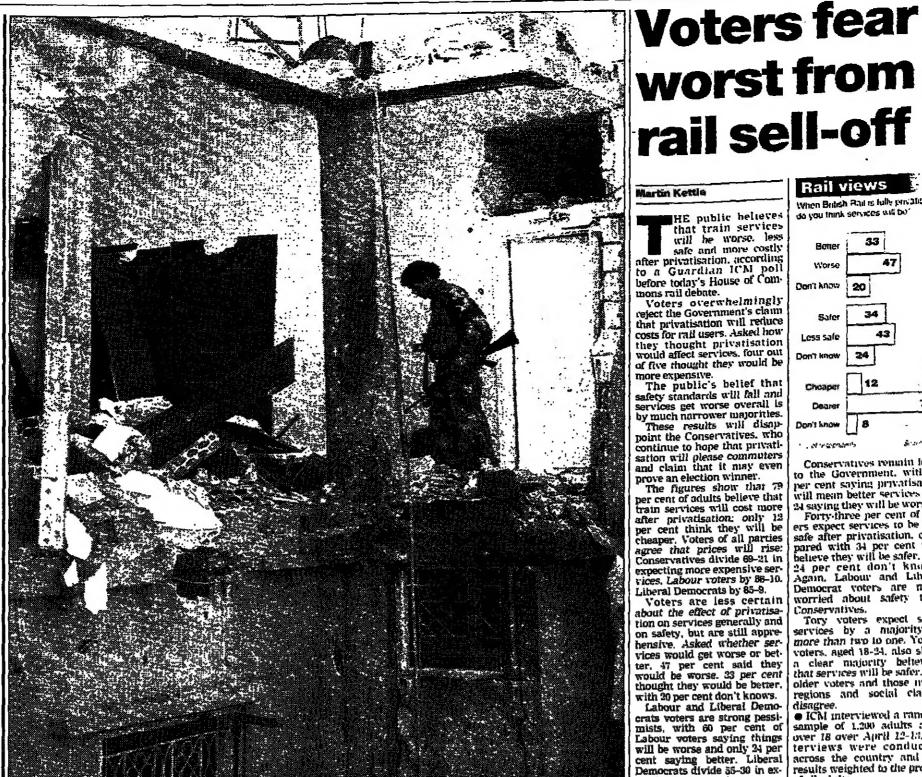
cluding many that had noth-

ing to do with Presley. The plot, such as it is, is a

The King shakes

his thang - again

about BSE. He intends to in-



### Israel targets Palestinian rebel

misses anti-Arafat commander

**David Hirst** 

army was "contemplating ex-tending its zone of operations Zahrani and Awali rivers" — where Sidon lies.

came in from the sea shortly before dawn. At precisely 4.07am, when they unleashed their missiles, the bedside clock in Munit Mikdah's

parents and six children -

near thing.
"This is the new technolrun-through of the King's career, from his days as a Memphis "singing usher" to his 1968 Vegas comeback. The cast move from song to song, with the narrative shown through slides and film clips The set designer, Andy Walmsley, has assembled a breathtaking set of portraits

and paraphernalia, in collage across five screens. Images linger in their grainy glory fo many minutes at a time, exercising an eerie power as they mutely hang suspended. Graceland fills all five screens; later, Priscilla's bee hive towers. Images of 1950s America have been done to death, yet they made even this non-fan understand some-

Proby's performance did the rest. He dominates the second half, black-wigged and every bit the gothic wreck Presiey was at the end of his ife. If he's frustrated at playing a more famous singer, all the better: his performance is

Sad to report, the show ends on a nauseating "party" note, with the audience stamping along to a greatest-hits med-ley. It lowers the tone of what hardly help being insipid, Unlike the West End's other might otherwise be a Tennes see Williams play set to some pretty good music. ing Acid Queens. It's pure nos-talgia based on the premise

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

# 'Precision bombing' in Lebanon The onslaught continues

in Ain el-Hilweh camp

IN El-HILWEH, the Palestinian refuges camp on the outskirts of Sidon, had a taste yesterday morning of what Israel had in mind when it warned that its in the region between the

The three Cobra helicopters house came to a stop. It was Mr Mikdah — asleep

in the house with his wife. whom the helicopters, using wire-guided missiles under illuminating parachute flares, were after. He emerged un-scathed, but it was a very

ogy." said a Mikdah aide guarding what is left of his home. "In the old days they just bombed us from high up, killing dozens at a time. Now they have these precision weapons. But still they miss their targets."

It was the house next door to Mr Mikdah's that was hit by three incoming missiles. In this tightly packed warren of two or three-storey hovels,

from the sea. The structure collapsed, but — perhaps be-cause of its flimsy materials — the young couple who lived in it came out alive, although the wife was seriously in-jured. Of the Mikdahs, only his youngest son, aged 18

Mr Mikdah is the com-mander of Black September which commemorates the evil day in 1993, as they see it, when the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Yasser Arafat. concluded his Oslo Accord with Mr Mikdah was once one of

Mr Arafat's top commanders. But, after the "sell-out", he went into opposition, taking with him some 1,700 fighters now have control of the camp. Lebanon's largest, which constitutes a last small pocket, surrounded by the Lebanese army, of the "Fatahland" that once stretched from the Is-raeli frontier to Beirut.

Bearded and austere, Mr Mikdah is a symbol of Islam-ist "rejectionism". He be-lieves a resurgence of armed struggle from Lebanon should from, the suicidal attacks of Hamas in the occupied

He collaborates with the Hizbullah, and has set up an "academy" for would-be Paiestinian suicide bombers. it stood directly in the line of Hizbullah help him mount op-fire for an assailant coming erations into Israeli-con-



trolled Lebanon. The Iranian ambassador visits him. He conspires openly against ago. Mr Arafat ordered his last loyalist forces in Lebanon to try to seize control of Ain el-Hilweh from him. It was a

squalid, bloody failure. The Israelis have now failed in their turn.

Mr Mikdah and his family have gone into hiding, and most of his fighters have fanned out around the camp in case of further attack. But the inhabitants are going about their daily business as

if nothing had happened. Not very much had, according to detail," he said. "For the time being the Zionists' real enemy is Hizbullah, not us. Our turi will come again."

After the attack, the South

Lebanon Army's radio station, which had carried Is-rael's earlier warning, warned people to "stay away from homes and offices of Palestinian and Lebanese leader associated with operations against Israel".

### by Blair lecture liant, and the importance of

Short taxed again

Rebecca Smithers and Patrick Wintour

Martin Kettle

HE public believes

safety standards will fall and

These results will disap-point the Conservatives, who

continue to hope that privati-

expecting more expensive ser ices, Labour voters by 86-10. Liberal Democrats by 85-9.

Voters are less certain

thought they would be better

with 20 per cent don't knows. Labour and Liberal Demo-

will be worse and only 24 per

prove an election winner.

ABOUR transport spokeswoman Clare Short was summoned to a meeting with party leader Tony Blair yesterday in his attempt to put the lid on the row over her remark that middle income earners could pay more tax. A defiant Ms Short insisted

on Monday that she would "not be silenced" after her comments to a Sunday television programme, which created an uproar within senior ranks of the Labour party by sharply contradicting Tony Blair's view that middle income earners should pay

She spent 10 minutes with Mr Blair in what was described as "a friendly meeting".

A senior Blair aide said:

"She accepted that she has screwed up big time, and that there was huge political ex-ploitation. She understands that the timing was not bril-

collective responsibility. It is the second time in six months Ms Short has had a lecture from Mr Blair on collective responsibility - the last time over her comments that Labour should consider

legalisation of cannabis. The party leadership's irritation is underlined by shadow chief whip Donald

Dewar in an article in today's Guardian. Stressing the importance of "discipline and good order" within the party, he makes it clear that "members of the front bench are the party's front-line ambassadors and must put the party's case at

all times".

Ms Short's remarks diverted attention from abour's campaign to destabilise the £1.6 billion flotation of

Rallmack. A press conference to flag up today's debate on the sell-

Letters, page 8; Donald Dewar, Tony Benn, page 9; Short straw, G2 cover story

#### Beef crisis 'will cost 28,000 jobs and taxpayer £550m'

continued from page 1 Major would also raise the issue with European colleagues during his visit to Moscow to discuss other probems in the wake of the Cher nobyl nuclear disaster. Mr Major's announce

made to cheers from Tory backbenchers in the Commons, was "not sabre rat-tling" but a genuine determination to right what he regarded as a wrong decision.

Mr Major told the House: beef imposed by the Commu-nity is more motivated by the interests of other countries' own beef markets than it is about public health. We have decided we

should take legal action against this totally unjusti-fied ban on British beef." A spokesman for the European Commission said: "Legally it is Britain's right but

"The export ban on British | fensible. Perhaps Britain | Strang. the agriculture beef imposed by the Commu- | should reflect it is just as well | spokesman, said: "Legal not been weakened as its gov-

have the tendency to slow everything down. Politicians are usually reluctant to take decisions when issues are be-

fore the court." Labour attacked Mr Ma-

that the court's powers have action is likely to take months to reach the courts, so "The court challenge will not speed the process but will diplomatic action to secure an agreed lifting of the ban." He added: "The Govern ment seems to have been totally unprepared for the

scale of the crisis which hit the beef industry after the we are satisfied the ban is and jor's decision to go to the original announcement on a boon to middle income Britwas justified and is legally de European court. Gavin March 20."

## off was scrapped.

Only top 2 per cent fall into

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

CLARE SHORT'S suggestion that she would expect to be pay more tax if Labour targeted high earners is borne out by figures showing that MPs — for all their grumbling about their £34,000 salaries — are among the best paid people in Britain.

The Government's New

The Government's New Earnings Survey shows that Labour would only hurt the top one or two per cent of the population if it raised income tax on those earning more than £40,000.

Inland Revenue statistics also cast serious doubt on the claims by Mr Blair's aides in Washington last week that a Labour tax cut for higher earners up to £40,000 would be ain. Of 40 million adults only year.

Labour's tax increase net 2.2 million pay the higher 40 per cent rate of tax, which kicks in at just over £33,000 Lea Mere

· TRING

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Conneral

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for a single person.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies calculates that only 3.4 per cent of employees earn more than £700 a week or £36,400 a year.

Latest figures indicate that mean average gross earnings for a full-time male employee — calculated by dividing total earnings by the number of employees — are running at £19.500 a year. while for women the figure is £14.029 a year.

use median earnings — the precise mid-point in the earnings distribution — because Britain has a small number of very highly paid employees and a large number of lowly paid workers. This figure is now a shade over £15,000 a

#### Ramaphosa moves into South African business

David Beresford

THE former labour leader Cyril Ramaphosa has thrown himself into negotiations for one of South Africa's biggest business takeovers. Just two days after an nouncing his planned with-drawal from active politics.

Africa's constitutional settle ment has begun talks with black business and union leaders to prepare a bid to wrest control of the leading investment company Johnnic from the Anglo-American corporation.

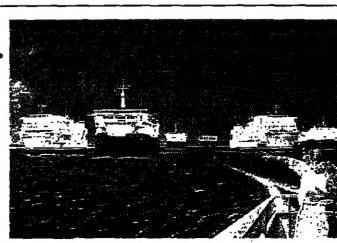
Commentators were still puzzling yesterday over Mr Ramaphosa's personal motive for abandoning the political the man who delivered South | arena.



Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants

and entertainment on board, plus hovercraft, provide rapid, comfortable crossings with a departure every thirty minutes. Fast on and off loading on both sides of the Channel helps to speed your journey. Instant motorway access from Calais part provides an open door to the entire

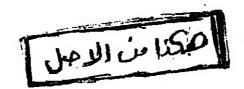
European motorway network.



For a shopping day, a relaxing stay or for immediate access to motorway...

...begins with sea.

DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY &O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED.



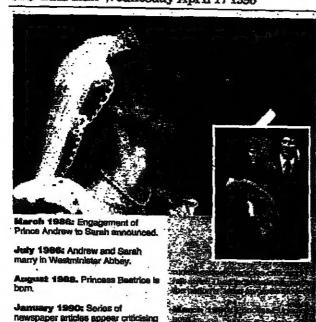
ixed again

lecture

Both 1986

per cent fallish

an increase nel



tound in a London flet of the Duchess on holiday with Texas millionaire Steve Wyatt. The photo some of which were published in British newspapers, show the Duchess and her friend with trice during a holiday in the South of France in 1990. They arms around Wyelt.

March 1992: The Yorks announce Queen's press secretary, stracks the Duchess of York claiming that she is unsultable for Royal and public lile." His comments came during a private briefing with fournelists. At the same time Buckingtium Palace announces the scrapping of all her Royal engagements.

moves out of the martial home at Sunninghill Park, Surrey to

Navy



mounty 1906: Reports our that the Duchess is that the Duke and Duchess of York ed in £100,000 in the east Court after she telled to July 1993: The Duchess's attempts to become a fund raiser for the United Nationa High debt and done Commission for Parugees are Buckingham Palace and Prime Minister John Major ware reported to be angry at her attempt to secur of the Queen of York

ter. Deel believed to include

signs a multi-million pound deal for

the rights to her Budgie cartoon



ess exiled as soon as possible. That it should have taken

four years — giving time for the duchess's growing finan-cial problems and a space of scandals to hit the headlines

is a source of enormous bit-terness within the royal

household. As a senior palace aide once

let slip to the BBC, Sarah Ferguson was regarded inside palace walls as "unfit" to be a member of the royal family. But the final word was left to

an ageing Lord Charteris, for mer private secretary to the

Queen, who spoke out loud what many had discretely thought when he called her "vulgar, vulgar, vulgar". It is understood the Queen

last month sent a letter to Prince Andrew urging him to

make a clean break. It was in

a similar vein to those sent by the Queen last Christmas to

the Prince and Princess of Wales — with, no doubt, the same aim in mind: to draw a

line under the marital mess created by her heir and

second son, and try and start

In the case of the Waleses

the three-year lull between separation and the opening of

# Decline and fall of the House of York

### The men in Fergie's life

#### Paddy McNally

THE 58-year-old multi-millionaire motor racing consultant is a widower and former manager of the rac-ing driver Niki Lauda. He and the Duchess spent several years together, and many thought they would last the full circuit and marry despite the age difference—she was in her early 20s, he in his late 40s. He once said any man would be



### lucky to go out with her, let alone marry her.

#### The Duke of York

THE Queen's second son, aged 36, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, mar-ried the Duchess in 1986. While single he gained a fearsome reputation as a ladies' man, earning the nick-name Randy Andy. The two are thought to have been brought together by Princess Diana, who often invited Sarah around for lunch at Kensington Palace. Their

love was believed to have "taken off" during Ascot in 1985 over a dish of profiteroles in the royal box when Sarah was on a diet.



#### Edward Pilkington

HE wedding of Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson at on July 23, 1986, in-evitably looked pale and in-significant beside that other wedding of five years previ-ously. But then, being the second son of the monarch means you are forever overshadowed.

Such unflattering compari sons notwithstanding, the ceremony went without a hitch and served its purpose. Commentators noted that marriage was just the thing for Andrew - adding some poce, that it would force him flash early in the relationship. For Buckingham Palace, niggling qualms about the control of their first child Barbart and the find," he quipped. In June that year, two months before the birth of their first child Barbart and the find, " he quipped. In June that year, two months before the birth of their first child Barbart and the find," he niggling qualms about the new arrival quickly grew into panic that they had backed

the wrong horse. .. Less than a year after the wedding, the duchess acquired her helicopter "wings" in an attempt, she said, to in an attempt, she said, to play a closer part in her husband's life. Such a stunt was typical of the woman that Buckingham Palace at first embraced, but increasingly came hitterly to regret. It was daving and earned the duchess Andrew's makes for her ess Andrew's praise for her guts and determination; but it was hardly the done thing. The couple enjoyed a few golden years. Financially, they did handsomely out of

the marital settlement. As a wedding present, Prince Andrew was granted an instant 50 per cent rise in his civil list allowance of £33,000 a year. By 1989 that amount had risen to £155,400, topped up with the duke's naval salary. They could afford to build a £5 million Tudor-style mansion in Sunninghill Park,



In hindsight the luxury in which they lived was counter-calanced by the strains of coyal life. Foremost was the What she should have day shortly before the start of the strains of the st

known was what was not ex-

pected of her. She was not ex-pected to wear a maple leaf in

her hair on a visit to Canada, or have "LA" imprinted on her hat in Los Angeles.

The tabloid press increas-

ingly poked fun at her dress | already abandoned her.

after the Yorks' separation in March 1982 need no rehears-ing. More engaging is what has happened since the cou-

ple parted and the question; why has divorce taken so

long? The Queen and royal

household wanted the duch-

divorce negotiations can be explained by the princess's unwillingness to finalise the split and the prince's sense of For the Yorks the story is more complicated. They The duchess's friendship with the Texan oil millionaire Steve Wyatt, and the toe-sucking denouement five months

remain great friends, whose bouncy joie de vivre is bouncy jole de vivre is thoroughly well-matched. One suspects that if Prince Andrew had not been wedded to the Navy and if prickly courtiers had not forever been breathing down their necks their marriage could have survived.

#### Steve Wyatt

TEXAN millionaire, aged 42. When details of their affair emerged, he was described as a cross between Bobby Ewing of Dallas fame and the Incredible Hulk. The two met through mutual friends and photographs of them on holiday were found in a London flat. Prince Andrew was said to be infuriated by

one photograph with Wyatt cud he got girlfriends to dress up in exotic underwear while they made love under a pyramid because he thought it had mystical healing powers. The Duchess refused to comment. He made his money in oil, and is now married to an American, Cate Magennis.

#### John Bryan

ANOTHER Texan oil man, aged 41, and he of the toe sucking fame, who has certainly cheesed off the Duchess. He plans to sue her for a share of the profits of Budgie the Helicopter and is considering a "kiss and tell" book detailing their affair. Her former financial adviser, and an old school chum of Wyatt, he became close to her after her marriage split

up. He tried to stop publication of the photographs which showed the couple kissing and cuddling in San Tropez, France. One of his last public engage ments with royalty was when he was spotted dancing with the Duchess at Annabel's nightclub in London. Asked about the photographs, which also showed him rubbing suntan oil on the Duchess's legs as she sunbathed topless, he said: "Anything can look bad, can't it?".

#### Thomas Muster

PROFESSIONAL tennis player, aged 28, he left his former fiancee Mar-tella after he met the Duchess through friends in Qatar in January. In March, the Duchess flew to Miami to visit Muster, who was in a tournament, but he lost to a player ranked 122nd in the world. Friends claimed he had other things on his mind. He said he had discussed ending the en-gagement with the Duchess: "She's an experienced woman who can tell me a lot."

#### John F Kennedy Jnr

THE Duchess has never met this 35-year-old editor of a political magazine but friends claim she would like to marry him. He is known as "the hunk" and is often referred to as the sexiest man in America. The Duchess calls him Ken. The two "met" on the pages of Hello, when she saw pictures of him: "Everything will be okay when I marry Ken," she is reported to have said.



#### Barble Dutter

HERE was scant sympathy last night for the Duchess of York in her natural home, the wine bars and brasseries of London's Sloane Square. "About time, too," chorused revellers, more worried about the froth on their cappucino than the latest royal marriage

Should Fergie step out again in SWI. newly-div-orced, she should prepare herself for a frosty reception. "She's a brat," said Libby Morris, aged 34, a teacher from Twickenhain.

She's an embarrassment to the country and she should be cast out. You have to have that, particularly in a recession, there are poor people Good riddance, I say."

around. To go gallivanting around the world and spending money like water is

which they lived was counter-

balanced by the strains of royal life. Foremost was the

fact that the couple rarely

spent time together. In 1988 the Duke of York an

nounced his intention to

make a lifetime's career in the navy. "Jobs for people like us are hard to find," he

he embarked on a tour of duty on board HMS Edinburgh that would take him away for

six months.

"Before getting married I never bothered about going away, because it was fun. But I think to be split from one's

wife for so long cannot be good for the long-term relationship," he said.

And so it appears to have proved in the second daredevil act of her royal career, the Tunbone devided to take

the Duchess decided to take matters into her own hands

and flew out in October 1988 to catch her husband in

Sydney. She was widely censured for having left baby Be-

on her hands, and less and less sight of her husband, she

was forced to rely on the sup-port of the arcane, chilly world of the palace. In an ex-traordinary outburst in De-cember 1994 she said that

when she married Prince
Andrew "I was wandering
with no compass, no fixed
sense of what to do. It wasn't

atrice behind.

Scant sympathy for 'gauche' royal couple in Sloane Square

obnoxious."

Amanda Rigali, aged 26, a student from Middleser, was equally scathing. "A more gauche couple you could not imagine. They were bad for the country. Terribly lower-middle class. A horrible tabloid version of the British royal family."

Marion Greene, aged 42, a teacher from Brighton, described the duke and duchess.

scribed the duke and duchess as "self-interested self-publi-cists with no sense of their public duty", adding. "They should be put in the tower, both of them."

Polly Culmer, aged 18, a stu-dent from Twickenham, said: "I see Fergle as the root of all

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hostilities in the Gulf War.

She was portrayed as a selfish

had abandoned her husband

when the truth might equally be said to be that her husband

with his naval priorities had



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The only chance of saving the UN is the election of a Secretary General with high personal moral stature, with a fearless record of telling unpopular truths, and with the instincts of a democratic politician. There is an obvious candidate with those qualities and one extra — she's a woman: Mary Robinson, President of Ireland.

Victoria Brittain page 9

In their hearts, many of the 5,000 present knew that **Prince** Charles **Edward** Stuart had messed up the encounter



Scots pay tribute to the 1,000 slaughtered at Culloden 250 years ago, in a battle which led to the destruction of the old clan system protographs: JOHN PAU

## Kilted masses mourn rebellion's bloody end

Peter Hetherington joins the ceremony at Drumossie Moor

plodded solemnly through knee-deep heather, banners held high and ceremonial broadswords at the ready. At midday, a cackle of musket fire and a lament on the pipes briefly shattered the peace of Drumos-sie Moor — followed by a minute's silence for the 1.000 slaughtered by Hanoverian military might in the last battle on British

soil 250 years' ago.
It was meant to be a quiet, dignified commemoration on the northern slope at Culloden, a mass mourning for the bloody end of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion which led to the destruction of the old clan system and a way of life.

In their hearts, many of the 5,000 present knew that Prince Charles Edward Stuart had messed up the en-counter. His hungry and dejected troops had little suitable ammunition. His choice of ground, for men used to roaring down hill-

sides, proved catastrophic. "Culloden, and its vengefinally called down the cur-tain on the medieval High-lands." noted the head of the Inverness Gaelic Society, Kenneth Macdonald, standing beside a 30ft high cairn, the battlefield memo-rial. Tartan and the Gaelic language were banned, and thousands were "cleared"

from the land. by nationalist republicans,

chists — for a pretender still lives — and the old clan chiefs, Mr Macdonald spoke of the "romantic mist" of a Bonnie Prince. In fact, a desperate, even reck-less, adventure had encountered a harsh "political and military reality". Like the British state.

Many put the events into a contemporary context— not least Belgium-born and Edinburgh-based "Prince" Michael James Alexander

'Culloden was a devastating blow to our history

-it was a very sad, cruel event'

Stuart, seventh Count of Albany. He claims to be a direct descendent of the Bonnie Prince and the

rightful King of Scotland.

He came to Scotland 20 years ago and works as a "I just wanted to come and live here because, well, we belong. People hate exiles." His bodyguard, Jock

Robertson, a garage owner from Rast Lothian, thought iron kast Lothian, thought airn, the battlefield memoial. Tartan and the Gaelic anguage were banned, and bousands were "cleared" rom the land.

While wreaths were laid by nationalist republicans, iron kast Lothian, thought too many seemed intent on doing down the Bonnie doing down the Bonnie womanising and drunkenness. "They've been at this propaganda for years."

Events moved from the

E kilted masses | House of Stuart monar- sombre to the farcical as a lodded solemnly chists — for a pretender lone red coat began wan-brough knee-deep | still lives — and the old | dering around the battlefield. Had Gordon Raynor, a retired engineer from south Cumbria and a military weapons enthusiast taken leave of his senses? No. He just wanted to show the flag. "I've got lots of Scottish friends and they Then he reconsidered. "Actually, one or two have called me a bastard today."

And much worse, as it turned out. As he explained his patriotic mission, a kilt-ed Scot interrupted. "You feel comfortable pal, do you? What about all that genocide? Down with all Brits — get out."

"It wasn't so much geno-cide as culture-cide," vol-unteered Derek Stewart, of the White Cockade Society (named after the Jacobite emblem) which re-enacts battle scenes and fired the muskets at midday. "Quite a few Scots fought with that butcher Cumberland. It wasn't all black and

Some clan chiefs, with English upper class tones, prepared their pipes for a final flourish. Donald Mac-Laren, from Perthshire, aged 40, head of the Clan MacLaren, in full Highland gear, was typical. "We're not making a political statement. We're not being mawkish about the past, but Culloden was a devastating blow to our history — a very sad, cruel event."





David Pallister

DWARD O'Brien on a bus in central London in February was an experienced and com-mitted terrorist who had been lanning a mainland bombing campaign throughout the period of the IRA ceasefire, an equest was told yesterday. Before the visit to Ireland

by President Bill Clinton last October the 21-year-old was collecting intelligence and preparing his bombs in a south London flat, Paul Knapman, the Wesiminster coro-ner, was told.

Detective Superintendent
William Emerton, of the anti-

terrorist branch, said O'Brien was probably responsible for the unexploded bomb placed in a telephone box in the West End of London three days be

fore the Aldwych blast.
The bomb had been placed in a Jaguar holdall, similar to one found in O'Brien's flat.
Mr Emerton said that after O'Brien arrived in London from Co Wexford he worked as a labourer and made friends in the pubs and clubs around Lewisham, "But I can prove that from August 1994 O'Brien was in London oper-ating on behalf of the IRA and indulging in criminal activity.

Two witnesses yesterday recalled the shock of the told the coroner's court there was "an abnighty explosion, one of the biggest bangs I have ever heard".

He was hurled to the ground Picking himself up he ran to the scene. "As I came round the corner there was complete and utter silence. No movement at all."

He saw O'Brien inside the mangled bus. 'He looked as if he was sitting on a seat. It was obvious he was dead. His author of misfortune."

A 9mm Walther pistol lay

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Paris Valentine, a solicitor was sitting at the back of the lower deck, reading a book. There was a loud thud and a piercing sound going through my mind. Everything became still and I was surrounded by complete darkness and sparks of light passing in front of my eyes." He sustained cuts and a perforated eardrum. Allen Feraday, the Govorn-

ment's leading forensic ex-pert on bombs, said O'Brien's flat commined 16 one-hour time and power units, four electronic detonators and six 2.5kg blocks of Semiex. He said the bomb could have gone off because of poor design, faulty equipment or pos-

'He looked as if he was sitting. It was obvious he was dead. His legs had been blown off

sibly through electro-mag netic interferen O'Brien would have died instantly, said Iain West, of Guy's hospital. Besides blow-ing his legs off, the blast collapsed his lungs and laced his body with shrapnel.

Commander John Grieve, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said: "Inquiries are still going on and there are a number of very positive leads

Returning a verdict of acci-dental death, the coroner praised members of the public who helped the injured driver and another pa Of O'Brien he said: "I would extend sympathy to his fam-lly but it is clear that whilst embarking on this potentially murderous crime he was the

ith Jazz Greats you can lie back and relax with some of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Each fortnight it brings you an hour of music from a jazz legend on CD or cassette. Each carefully chosen track has been digitally re-mastered to let you hear the music as it was meant to be heard, while the accompanying magazine looks at their life and times, highlights key moments in the history of jazz and puts their work in context, giving you an insight into some of this century's greatest musicians.

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### Hogg announces BSE action plan to 'get industry moving' but measures fail to convince those at sharp end of crisis

### **Beef exports** 'will take five years to recover'

#### Paul Brown on a bleak industry report

HR Government's BSE action plan was drawn up after a from the accountant Coopers & Lybrand painted a bleak picture for the future of the industry, worth £2.6 billion a year before the BSE crisis. It says: "There is a genuine crisis in the industry and argent action is needed."

har etting, litig

-21

action is needed, the Agricul-ture Secretary, said yesterday that the immediate task was to get the industry moving again so that beef could get from the farm to the public who still wanted to buy it.

This meant removing the "blockages" of stocks in store. To protect farmers from price reductions and stave off a chain of threatened bankrupt-cles, the Government was prepared to subsidise market prices by up to 25p a kilo until prices regained pre-scare

Farmers would be paid compensation of up to £480 an animal for cows too old to go into the food chain, and more for specially bred beef cattle over 30 months old which were now also banned from

human consumption. These animals would be slaughtered and sent to the rendering industry, which boils them down into tallow and bonemeal. The industry used to be able to sall these products but had been unable to do so because of fears of spreading BSE. Special disposal methods for this waste would be devised. This special aid to the rendering industry would cost £118

Mr Hogg ruled out any mass slaughtering policy, but said that selective slaughtering of animals most likely to be affected by RSE was still being considered. These would be put to the industry before they were publicly announced, but the number of herds affected would be small mass slaughter of healthy court was told yesterday.

And the animals involved productive cattle," Ewen would be in the thousands.

Cameron, the president said.

The health deny neglical research Council were neglical r

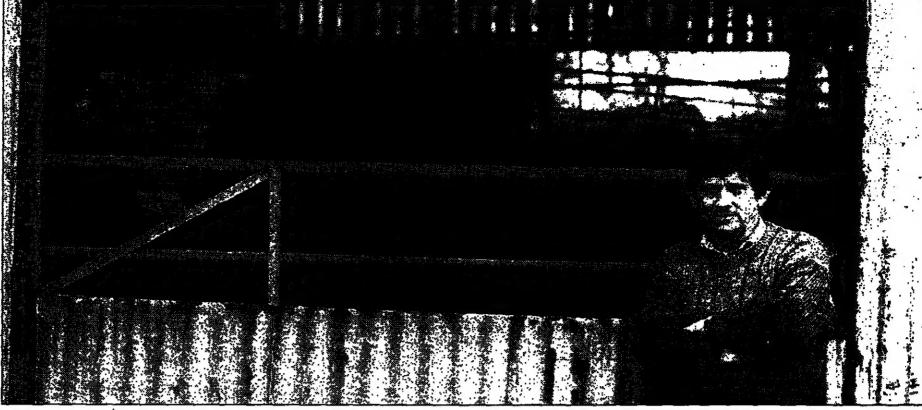
Another scheme, to be announced soon, for allowing being formulated. This was for specialist beef herds where there was no BSE and the cattle had been fed on grass and feed which could not have contained any BSE infection.

The Coopers & Lybrand report is based on the assumption that current loss of exports would continue for at least six months, and that it was unlikely to fully recover within five years. Farmers would be forced to continue selling cattle, however, and the Government should aim for a much reduced slaughtering and processing industry sufficient to meet demand.

According to the report, lost export revenue for the industry was £10 million a week, which could not be recovered in the short term. There was a further £15 mil-lion a week lost in revenue from slaughtering cattle that could no longer go into the food chain.

The accountants estimated that the beef industry was already 45 per cent over capacity and, as a result of the crisis, a large number of slaughterhouses and meat processors would have to close. Estimated job losses as a result of the closure of between one quarter and one third of abattoirs was 6,000 to 8,000, and at meat processing plants 15,000 to 20,000. Total losses in the industry might reach 28,000. "The damage to the infrastructure is likely to be huge and unreceverable in the medium term."

The Country Landowners' Association, which represents 50,000 rural busine said it believed the Govern-ment's measures would put the industry back on its feet. "We agree wholeheartedly



### Minister fails to lift gloomy farmers

As MPs listened to Commons statement, a temporary 25p per kilo the shelves of a major premium on top of a previously amnounced 86p per kilo offer of help. "But he weeks of the new BSE cri-

concerned expression of Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, beef farmer Edward Wardell set his video to record the Commons statement and pre-

pared to take notes. Mr Hogg outlined plans to help farmers, slaughterers, processors and renderers and said: "These should en-able the industry to plan ahead with confidence."

S THE strobing pink jacket of Labour's located for Labour's located for

apply to only a handful of the farm's 370 cattle.

These animals are over 30 months old and so cannot be sold into the food chain. Now Mr Hogg has promised | Lancashire, and then on to | business cannot continue."

has not done enything that would increase the value of

than I am."

He reviewed his notes and concluded that government assistance would cattle from markets and Cheshire and Carlisle and Cheshire and Carlisle and feed them up for six months. Each week about 15 fattened beasts would go to an abbatoir in Colne,

supermarket chain. But for the first three sis, no cattle left Great Oak Farm and none arrived. "If we couldn't sell, we couldn't buy," Mr Wardell

Mr Wardell managed to sell a few bulls last week for about £640 a head, compared with £730 before the scare. He glanced around a shed containing 120 animals. 'No bulls of this age BSE. I know people tend to think that farmers are always after something, but, without compensation, the

Tony Evans runs a beel farm in Essex . This is what the measu

Sold at the end of her working Me (is over 30 months) for meat.

Sold at market, under



### CJD deaths from hormone 'were avoidable'

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

human growth hormone were a "dreadful tragedy" which

HE deaths of young pituitary glands of corpses. In people infected with all, 15 people, treated with the commone for abnormally with the commitment to no was avoidable, the High for legal aid A 17th is dying.

pituitary glands of corpses. In programme ended suddenly all, 16 people, treated with the after the first deaths were reported in the US. Since short stature, have died, but | 1985, genetically engineered half the families are ineligible | hormone has been used.

said they had died aged be Disease — the human equiva-tween 20 and 34 after being lent of mad cow disease — injected as children with the after receiving treatment be-hormone, extracted from the tween 1959 and 1985, when the people treated had suffered psychiatric harm and lived with the fear that they might be infected with a fatal disease. The future conduct of the fatal disease is the future conduct of the fatal disease.

He said the action against their cases depended on the department and the Medical mentia should be used, but

safest method of extraction.

An animal virologist sug no pituitaries from people who had suffered from de-

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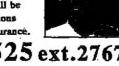
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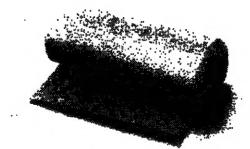
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### Clinton administration turns peacemaker as the rumble of war grows fainter

# Washington in Lebanon peace push

Martin Walker in Washington and Ian Black in London

HE United States launched an effort yesterday to end the fighting in Lebanon. which has raged for six days. The move was welcomed by Tel Aviv but Beirut said the proposed ceasefire terms

were hard to accept.

Clinton administration officials said they hoped a truce between Israel and Hizbullah guerrillas could help prise Syria and Lebanon into the wider Middle East peace

"The United States is involved in an effort to bring about an agreement," said Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres. "We welcome it, though we did not initiate it."

Arabia: "Our first impression is that there is a difficulty in accepting it."

The main sticking-point for Lebanon is likely to be US and Israeli insistence on disarming Hizbullah fighters in return for an Israeli commitment to pull out of the southern "security zone".
The US goal, according to

Washington sources, is to bring Syrian and Lebanese representatives to a foreign ministers' gathering in Lux-

embourg next Monday.

This is the follow-up meeting to the Sharm el-Sheikh
"auti-terrorist" summit
attended a month ago by President Clinton, Israeli and and other Arab leaders, and boycotted by Syria and Lebanon After six days of Israeli reprisals against Hizbullah

Rafik al-Hariri, said after talks on the proposed deal with US diplomats in Saudi

 Lebanon guarantees the security of settlements in northern Israel.

• Katyusha rocket attacka on northern Israel stop. Guerrilla attacks agains Israeli soldiers inside Israel's security zone in south Lebanon stop in return for an Israeli

and even the odd Syrian tar-

get in Lebanon — quietly en-dorsed by the US government — the American initiative

was timed for maximum

Presented to the Lebanes

government yesterday, the ceasefire plan rules out

attacks on civilians on either

side of the Israel-Lebanon

The US initiative began

declaration that it has no demands in Lebanon and is willing to discuss pulling out its forces if the Lebanese army

provides security in south Lebanon for nine months. Syria guarantees this agreement and sets up a mechanism to implement it.

France, which tried unsuc-

denounced Israeli attacks on

 Israel demands the disarming of Hizbullah and maintains its right to attack the group if it resumed its terrorist activities.

Israel takes steps to

revive peace negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese

with a series of phone calls by the secretary of state, Warren said it was "extremely wor-ried" by the bombardment's Christopher — while flying with President Clinton to South Korea and Japan — to Mr Hariri, Mr Peres and the The French position con-trasted sharply with the pro-Israeli or mildly critical state-Syrian foreign minister, Far-ouq al-Shara. The US moves came as ments issued by Britain, partly corrected yesterday
when the Foreign Secretary,
Malcolm Rifkind, urged Israel
to adopt a "measured response" to Hizbullah attacks.
Mr Rifkind's comments cessfully to end the fighting.

many countries had con-demned Israel at the United Nations, where Arab countries accused it of "senseless aggression" and the US warned that it would block any resolution condemning the Jewish state. In the Clinton administra-tion there has been sharp de-

were made just hours after

bate on how to react to Israel's strikes. Mr Christopher wants to to keep open the possibility of a Syrian-Israeli peace agree-ment on the Golan Heights, having made a big personal

investment in such an agree ment in 17 visits to But President Clinton and his national security advisers were adament that Mr-Peres, facing crucial elections next month, deserved US support.

News in brief

### More than 300 die in Burundi clashes

MORE than 200 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in a wave of Hutu rebel attacks in Burundi in the past two weeks. United Nations sources said yesterday. The dead, they added, included a commando colonel killed on Sunday by more than 100 armed Hutu rebels in a raid on Bukirasazi commune, south

of the central town of Gitega.
"We had been brought in to reinforce Gitega from [the capital] Bujumbura. We were outnumbered, "a wounded para-

trooper at the town's hospital said.

UN sources said that on Sunday the rebols slaughtered 15 families abducted last week at Gitanga in the south-east prov-

ince of Rutanga. A total of 21 separate attacks between April 3 and April 14 left at least 323 people dead.

A senior police officer said yesterday that Burundi had closed its border crossing with Zaire at Gatumba, north-west of Bujumbura, to stop rebels infiltrating. — Reuter, Gitego.

### **Economic policy U-turn**

VENEZUELAN President Rafael Caldera has announced a swee

VENEZUELAN President Rafael Caldera has announced a sweeping sconomic adjustment programme that returns the country to the Latin American vogue for free market reform.

His endorsement of a huge petrol price increase, higher sales traces and the elimination of currency, interest rate, and price controls marks a dramatic policy shift for one of the region's shunchest critics of neo-liberal policies. Mr Caldera, aged 80, said he is close to sealing an IMF deal that would bring a \$2.5 billion loan.

inflation was 57 per cent last year and 34 per cent in the first three months of this year and the bolivar has slipped from just over 100 to the US dollar in early 1994 to almost 500 today.

Venezuelans jammed supermarket aisles to stock up on food before prices begin to rise. — Michael Wade, Caracus.

### Patten blamed for protests

ACOMMUNIST Party organ in Hong Kong yesterday denounced Governor Chris Patten as the "behind the curtain" orchestrator of street protests which it said threatened "social chaos".

The commentary in Wen Wei Po, China's most authoritative voice in the colony, blamed recent demonstrations against visiting Chinese officials on a plot by Mr Patten in cahoots with a "riny handful of so-called democrats."

The Democratic Party, the loudest voice of protest against the Democratic Party, the founds twice of profess against China's plans for the territory after the 1997 handover, is Hong Kong's most popular political organisation. It frounded pro-China candidates in legislative elections last September. China vows to replace the victors with an appointed "provisional" legislature.

A leading independent newspaper, Ming Pao, yesterday, reported what it claimed was an internal document detailing

reported what it claimed was an internal document detailing reported what it claimed was an internal document detailing Baijing's strategy against the democrats. It said leaders would be driven into exile while lower ranking members would realise they must calm their activities if they wanted to stay on.

— Andrew Higgins, Hong Kong.

#### Russia seeks talks role

RUSSIA insisted yesterday that it should have a role in negotiations to settle tensions on the Korean peninsula, after the US proposed four-way talks with North and South Rorea and China. A foreign ministry spokesman, Mikhail Demurin, told a news briefing he was still pushing for a multilateral conference and that Russia, once a close ally of the communist leadership in

Pyongyang, must play a role.

"The Russian position is that the problems of the Korean peninsula should be settled on a multilateral basis, taking account of the interests of all the parties involved," Mr Demurin said. Narrower negotiations tended not to work, he added.

The deputy foreign numister, Alexander Panov, and a Russian trade delegation held talks in Pyongyang last week, Mr Demurin noted, saying Moscow hoped these would lead to a return to warmer relations — Reuter, Moscow.

#### Olympic visitors warning

NON-BUROPEAN visitors to the Svd year 2000 should be warned they could be besten up by police who mistake them for Aborigines, a leading academic said yesterday. The comment from Professor Marcia Langton, head of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, came as relations between the new conservative government and blacks continue to degenerate.

"If you are browner than usual and your nostrils are a little

wider than usual, well don't come to Australia in the year 2000 because you will be picked up by the cops and have your head kicked in because they think you are Aboriginal," she said. Her remarks follow the federal government's push to expose alleged corruption in the so-called "black parliament" of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. — Christopher Zinn, Sydney.

### Hizbullah 'bowing to bombardment'

Derek Brown in Kiryat Shmona and selca Berry in Tel Aviv

"HE Israeli army reported a "marked decrease" yesterday in the number of rocket attacks launched across its border by Hizbullah in south Lebanor

Last night Israel's own bombardment of Lebanon also appeared to diminish, with the rumble of artillery along the border becoming sporadic. But this came after a day in which its helicopters. planes and big guns carried out waves of attacks inside Lebanon, in one Beirut suburb alone killing five civil-ians and wounding 17.

Military sources on the border said Operation Grapes of Wrath might end in the next few days, a prediction sup-ported by the increasing diplomatic moves towards a cessefire. although a senior officer in Tel Aviv said the offensive would continue until the threat of the rockets from south Lebanon was

stopped. Yesterday three salvoes of northern Israel. One hit western Galilee, near the Mediterranean coast, wounding a woman. Two more struck in the Galilee panhandle, close whose inhabitants have us." He denied reports that Iseither fied or seek refuge in | rael was planning to extend bomb shelters.

Hizbuilah, under intense Israeli serial and artillery attack for the past six days, have returned fire with Katyushas on each day of the bombardment, but their firepower is diminishing, according to Israeli military spokesman Colonel Raan Gissin. "There has been a marked

decrease in attacks, no doubt

markedly reduced as a result of precision-guided bombing and other means."
But a top Israeli military of-ficer hinted that the bombardment of southern Lebanon and Beirut might continue Major-General Eitan Ben

due to the activity of the IDF [Israeli defence forces]," he said. "Their capability to

launch attacks has been

Eliahu, second-in-command of operations, suggested that Hizbullah's Katyusha rocket launchers would not be silenced overnight. He said 40 had been destroyed.

"We ask the public to be pa-tient. It's not a blitz," he said.
"The fact we are willing to pay the price of time . . is because we don't want casualties other than Hizbullah."

He denied that Israel was targeting civilians and blamed their deaths on Hizbullah's use of civilian shelters. At least 31 civilians have been killed in Lebanon since the operation started on Thursday. A further 141 have been wounded. Katyushas have wounded about 40 Israeli civilians.
He added that several op-

tions remained that might extend the number of targets and increase strikes against Lebanon's infrastructure.

"We will continue to hit if they do and we will hit at

its nine-mile security zone to the Litani river. Hizbullah is increasingly

using single Katyushas in-stead of multiple launchers. to make detection harder. Ac cording to Col Gissin, it is firing from makeshift tripods, vehicles, and even donkeys. The guerrillas are also using timersso they can escape



After the storm . . . A man in Nabatiyeh walks through his shops, which were destroyed by Israeli shelling yesterday, the sixth day of aerial and artillery bombardment of Beirut and south Lebanon

PHOTOGRAPH KAMEL LABOR

### Clintons 'denied justice on Whitewater'

ARTISANS of President and Mrs Clinton in the Whitewater affair have started to counter-attack, claiming that the legal and congressional inquiries are becoming poisoned by Republican politics, as public interest in the affair wanes. Kenneth Starr, the "inde

pendent counsel" charged with the full legal inquiry into Whitewater, stands accused of not being indepen-dent at all, but of being a Republican activity with a Republican activist with a series of personal conflicts of interest which should exclude

In Little Rock, Arkansas, the local media have dubbed Mr Starr "the bully" for such tactics as serving subpoenas on children at their schools to put pressure on their parents to co-operate with the

The Clintons' main tormentor in the Senate, Senator Al-fonse D'Amato, is co-chair-man of Senator Robert Dole's campaign to win the presi-dency in November, and has made little secret of his parti-

heartened by developments at the main legal forum for ex-ploring the Whitewater affair — the trial in Little Rock of Governor Jim Guy Tucker, and Jim McDougal, the for-mer banker and partner of the Clintons in the original Whitewater property venture.
The case against them,
brought by Mr Starr, rests heavily on the evidence of David Hale, a former Arkan-sas judge, who has sought to soften his own sentence for

san stance.
The Senate hearings will fraud by co-operating with the prosecution. But on the him from the case.

Democratic congressmen even-handed arena of Mr D'A-libility has been repeatedly have written to the attorney-mato's banking committee, punctured, blunting the force

Mr Hale, unable to rebut the defence lawyer's charge that he was "a liar, a thief and a con man", has confessed to misleading the judge in the matter of his ples bargain, and to having "no basis but conjecture" for his claim that the money his company lent to Mr McDougal benefited the

The increasingly likely acquittal of Mr Tucker and Mr McDougal would drive a coach and horses through what is left of the allegations of wrongdoing by the Clin-tons, and would be a serious tons, and would be a serious Paula Jones, who is suing Mr embarrassment for Mr Starr. Clinton for sexual harassment.

general, claiming that Mr after Congress refused to con-Starr's role denies the Clin-tons impartial justice, and asking for a review of his role.

A former solicitor-general ton, the then-governor of Ar-kansas, pressured him to make an illegal loan to keep The White House has been the Whitewater company At the time, his own law firm was being sued for legal fraud by the Resolution Trust Corporation — the federal agency responsible for clearing up the bankruptcy of Mr McDou-gal's Madison Guaranty Bank, the main source of finance for Whitewater. Last year Mr Starr's firm settled out of court with the RTC for \$325,000 (£215,000).

Mr Start has represented a series of clients bitterly op posed to the Clinton presi-dency, from the tobacco cor-porations facing legal curbs by the administration to

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### Madonna with child as material girl comes over all maternal

Martin Walker in Washington

MADONNA, the rannchy goddess of the 1980s, has completed her transformation into the matronly star of the film Evita, by announcing that she is expecting a baby. The father is her personal

fitness trainer for the last 18 months. Carlos Leon, and the child is due in September — well after the scheduled completion of the \$60 million film of the this to be a big deal." her

hit musical. "We are doing everything her condition and to keep to the schedule," Alan Parker, the film's director,

sional, and giving the per-formance of her life. I'm very happy for her." Divorced in 1989 from Sean Penn, the star of the film Dead Man Walking, Madonna lived with a succession of men and women

Last December she told interviewers: "My biological clock is ticking so loud, I may run an ad for a suitable father." She had just turned 37. "Madonna doesn't want

before settling down with

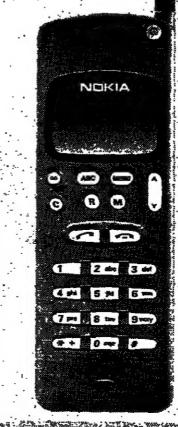
Mr Leon last year.

whit musical.

"We are doing everything possible to accommodate her condition and to keep and the beautiful and to her day." But she is deliriously happy and so is everybody

close to her.
I hate to resort to cliche "She has been splendid especially about Madonna, throughout, utterly profes- but she's radiant."

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Juppé resists drift to National Front hard line

## **Gaullists split over** immigrant policy

Paul Webster in Paris

proposals to reduce illegal immigrants' access to education and health services have deepened a split inside the Gaullist-led cabinet and

raised a storm of profest from human rights organisations.
Rightwing MPs have been accused of trying to compete with the racist National Front, which has stepped up its anti-immigration cam-

paign in the run-up to the 1998 general election.

A recent opinion poll showed 33 per cent of the electorate in favour of the extremist movement's racist programme.

A parliamentary com

A parliamentary commis-sion's proposals — handed to the prime minister. Alain Juppe, yesterday — reflect tough policies being prepared by the interior minister. Jean-Louis Debré, who plans to ask the national ass today to approve a bill mak ing it the equivalent of a terrorist offence to shelter an

against what they consider of intolerance towards immigrants. But Mr Juppe is among ministers opposing tighter restrictions because he fears a popular backlash against the MPs' demands, which include fingerprinting African visitors.

Le Monde was among news-papers which attacked a rightwing drift towards National Front policies. It National Front policies. It said some government party members, paralysed by the growing popularity of Jean-Marie Le Pen's party, were ready to destroy fundamental republican rights to please voters.

The parliamentary commission's abeliance Jean-Pierre

sion's chairman, Jean-Pierre Philibert, a member of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), said MPs wanted 46 changes, including tighter frontier controls, stricter de-

sions made easier.

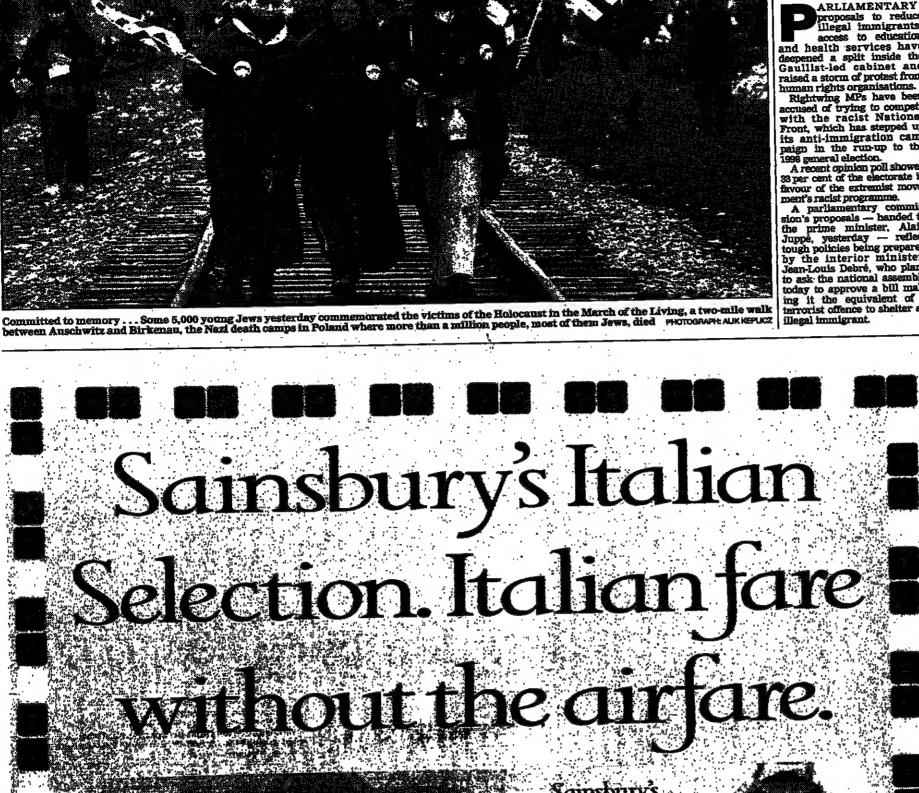
The proposed laws would The total number would make it difficult for illegal immost the same as in 199

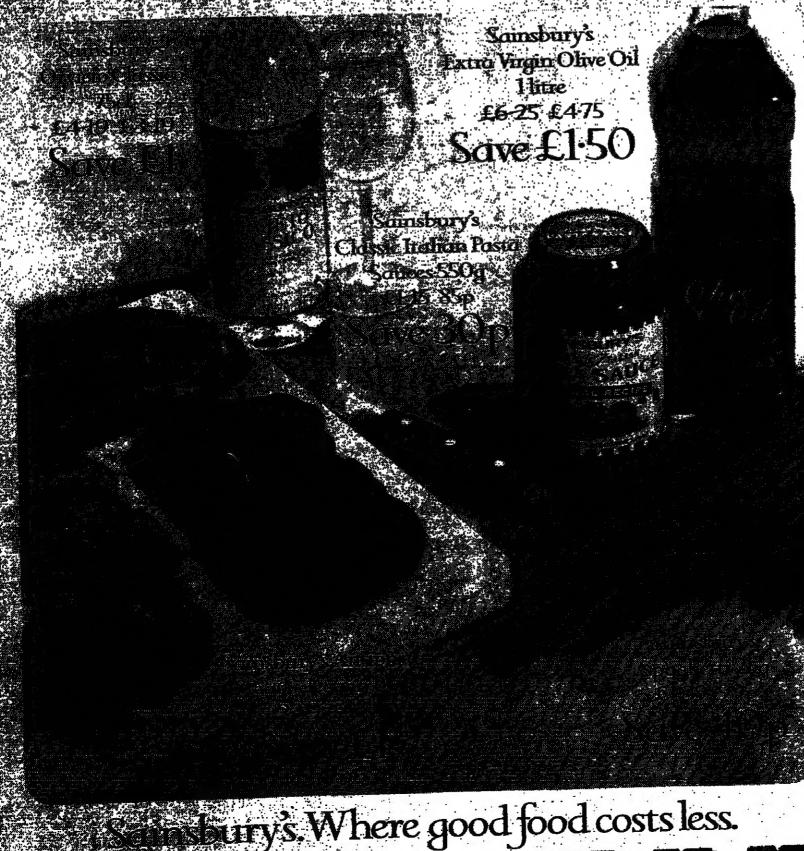
Human rights organisa-tions are preparing a national ment, council housing and demonstration in June schooling and they would no ment, council housing and schooling, and they would no longer qualify for child

> One Gaullist commission member, Alain Marsaud, denied that the commission had based its recommendations on measures soon to be an-nounced by Mr Debrê — a fel-low Gaullist — but several of the proposals are similar to plans being considered by the

One critic of tougher laws is the former interior minis-ter Charles Pasqua, whose 1993 anti-immigration mea-sures have been the subject of continuous protest. He said the laws against illegal immi-gration were already strong gration were already strong enough but not being fully

enforced. Last year more th visitors were declared illegal immigrants and ordered to leave French territory but fewer than 11,000 were even-tually expelled, because of bureaucratic delays or





### Nato rules out Moscow offer

AVIER SOLANA, Nato's secretary-general, yester-day bluntly dismissed a Russian compromise allowing former Warsaw pact countries to join Nato as political rather than fully fledged military members.

Speaking in Lithuania at the start of his tour of Baltic countries. Mr. Solana said. "T

countries, Mr Solana said: "I rule it out because I do not know what it means."

His comments will give approach to full Nato membership being prepared by all three Baltic countries, but will do nothing to ease Rus-sian political concern at the alliance's growing military influence in central and east-

The three Baltic states, which once formed the west-Soviet Union, are eager to ex-ploit the growing east-west rift, believing that they will ry for its Bosnia operation.

Latvia's foreign minister, Valdis Birkavs, said Russia could not claim a right of veto on membership. He said: "Russia can't be ignored, but it is not the right approach to follow only Russia's com-plaints. We want dialogue, not subordination."

Latvia, which claims a strip of land on its western border occupied by Russia, is awaiting Nato's amouncement of the expansion plans. It will not of a large minority of ethnic be among the first wave of new members, but the terms of the announcement, the timentry will help east European states in the queue to know what Nato has in mind.

Dr Birkavs said: "My feeling is that the enlargement process is going a bit slowly, because the understanding of how sophisticated and complex this process is is already there."

He said Latvia understood the dangers of creating a new line of confrontation in Europe but regarded its par-ticipation in the Partnership for Peace programme, and its Ifor presence in Bosnia, as part of its national security. "No one can give us se rity guarantees, words that can't be broken, but Nato's enlargement is a process and security is also a process and

we don't want to be outside

that process," he said.

He added that without stability in the Baltics there would be no stability in Europe. "Certainly, Nato en-largement is not targeted against Russia, but it is tar-ceted at stability."

In Moscow, however, an-tagonism towards Nato's expansion is growing. Polish and Hungarian accession to Nato would be unwelcome but tolerated; the Baltics would be a different matter.

Leading Russian military strategists have warned that Moscow could respond by re-positioning tactical shortpositioning tactical short-range nuclear missiles on its western borders. Viktor Mikhailov, Russia's atomic energy minister, has

even suggested bombing Czech bases if the republic becomes part of Nato's military

Other Russian military strategists have focused on Nato's use of bases in Hunga-

armed forces have been weak-ened by 10 years of reform and the disbandment of some of the fighting units withdrawn from eastern Europe. Russia also feels the loss of its traditional arms market in eastern Europe and is sensi-tive to Germany's growing economic influence there.

Latvia's relationship with Russians, Ukrainians and other nationalities to whom it is denying citizenship. Today, Dr Birkavs says, the relation

ship is "50-50". He said: "We are working to have better relations and we



Solana: added to Russian fears of Nato enlargement

#### Baltics may be losers in move to limit expansion

TATO governments are ready to limit the future expansion of the alliance to just three countries in central Europe — the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland — in an effort to overcome Russian objections to enlargement. In effect, the member gov-

ernments will indefinitely freeze further Nato enlarge-ment to other central European countries or to the Bal-tic states.

In return, Nato hopes that whoever wins the Russian presidential election in June will co-operate actively in building a comprehensive collective security order cover-ing the whole continent. When they meet in Brussels

in December, Nato foreign ministers are expected to confirm their intention to move to the next stage of enlarge-ment. Negotiations could ment. Negotiations could begin first with the Czechs and either simultaneously or shortly after with Hungary and Poland, with the prospect of the three becoming full of the three becoming full others by the year 2000.

But Nato will insist that it is too soon to consider any further applications from other countries in the region, other countries in the region, disappointing the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. They fear that exclusion could send a misleading signal to Moscow.

This week the Finnish prime minister, Paavo Lipung manual that an agree that a group of the send of the s

ponen, warned that an agree-ment with Russia could split Eastern Europe into apparent pro-Nato and pro-Russian groups. The Finnish government wants to discuss the issues raised by limited ex-pansion with the Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana.

Quite apart from Russian objections to the Baltic states being included. Western governments are concerned about political developments in Slovakia and Bulgaria, and

questions regarding minority rights in Romania. There have been reports that some Slovak and Bulgar-

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### A Lilley-livered opt out

Poverty can't be relieved without redistribution

WHO IS the real Peter Lilley? The cent. The result is an almost unbeliev-minister who privately described last able tripling of people in poverty as year's Treasury cuts to social security — in a memorandum later leaked to the Guardian — as unfair and devastating? Or the social security secretary who has just publicly told the British antipoverty lobby that the Government has no intention of taking part in the cur-rent International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, even though as a signatory of the UN's Copenhagen Declaration it committed itself to setting targets to reduce inequality? Peter Lilley is not the first minister to deny poverty exists in Britain. A predeces sor, the hapless John Moore, adopted the same tactic in 1988 shortly before Margaret Thatcher sacked him. Thatcher herself in the same year insisted "everyone in the nation has benefited from increasing prosperity everyone" only to be humiliatingly contradicted by her own Government's statistics in the following year. Lilley is right when he insists the

bottom 20 per cent have acquired more consumer goods over the last decade. No one can pretend that life for the bottom 20 per cent is as desperate as it was 100 years ago. The General Household Survey shows that about three out of four have telephones, central heating - and almost a half a car. But he is wrong to suggest this exempts the UK from the obligations of the Convention. It specifically calls on states to draw up national strategies for the reduction of poverty — both absolute and relative. And for good reason, as the growth of poverty in Britain demonstrates.

Inequality in the UK has grown further and faster than in any comparable state during the last decade: the poorest 30 per cent have all suffered, the poorest 10 per cent are actually 17 per cent worse off in real terms, while the income of middle-earners has grown by 35 per cent and high-earners by 50 per are to be reduced.

defined by the European Union: people living below half the national average. One out of every three children is now growing up in such poor families. Do not be misled by the consumer durables. Children in these families suffer multiple handicaps: poorer education, less training, more unemployment and worse health. Children born in poor families die eight years earlier than their contemporaries in more affluent homes. Even health ministers, who resisted the statistics for so long, now concede a link between poverty and ill

There is nothing wrong with the emerging political consensus on what needs to be done: improved training opportunities; better benefit-to-work schemes; more in-work income support schemes. What is wrong is the way the Government breaches the principles which it purports to support and the Opposition prevaricates over its pro-posals. David Brindle sets out on page nine of our Society supplement how far short the present systems falls. It has been made worse by the budget freeze on one-parent benefit (one benefit which can be carried from unemployment to work), new restrictions on housing benefit for under 25-year-olds (restricting their readiness to move to work), and an imbecilic rule under which the unemployed are denied benefit if they start a training course exceeding 21 hours a week. Eighteen months after Labour's National Commission on Justice reported, the party is still searching for solutions. Its new spokesman, Chris Smith, is conducting a second review looking at 45 possible changes. Just how they will be financed is a further mystery. Better economic growth will help, but ultimately redistribution will be needed if inequalities



Tell us — which is the fairest political party of them all?

FEW DECISIONS by Labour have been | Mirror would simply be financially driven by such naked self-interest as its stronger through owning a television sudden conversion to loosening the controls on cross-media take-over bids. The party which last year extolled the virex expansion into other industries could be a miner alection, on what constitutes have described in the control of party which last year extolled the virtues of plurality now wants the Broadcasting Bill's clause banning newspapers with more than 20 per cent of Mirror in a way that wouldn't be open national readership from owning television franchises to be lifted to 25 per cent. The reason is disarmingly simple. A 20 per cent threshold would allow the Tory Mail and Express groups to move of cross-promotion, are not obvious. into television while debarring the Labour-leaning Mirror Group whose existing 23 per cent market share al-ready exceeds the limit.

Labour may be doing the right thing Labour had merely argued for a level playing field then its conversion might have been easier to justify. But it did not, Mindful of how the Sun newspaper was credited with swinging the last election in favour of the Conservatives, it is hoping to change the rules to - the Mirror Group. But hang on. If the Sun did swing it for the Tories then it through his television interests. Labour unacceptable. If it is thought that the | would pass Labour's own test.

be equally rewarding. If the idea is to use a television channel to promote the to another company then that smacks of |2000: a birth unfair competition which ought to be investigated. The truth is that the benefits of cross-media ownership, stripped

Academic research shows that most mergers are done for defensive reasons or because they are fashionable (like banks buying estate agents) and hardly any actually produce benefits. This is for the wrong reason. In other areas of now happening in the media. Remem-commerce monitored by the Monopober that one of the driving forces belies Commission, the definition of a hind the Broadcasting Act is to create monopoly is 25 per cent of a market. If stronger multi-media companies capable of becoming global corporations. So far there is scant sign that this is happening. The Mirror's freedom to take over a television company ought to be judged not by whether it will ensure its loyalty to Labour (which could easily backfire anyway) but whether it will strengthen - and/or curry favour with | be successful in its own right. Interestingly, Labour's competition policy proposes that large mergers should not be was through editorial crusading not allowed unless the company making the because of anything Mr Murdoch did take-over can demonstrate that it is not being done for purely defensive reasons surely isn't hoping that a Mirror media and that positive benefits will emerge. empire would exert political influence It is a most point whether any of the on its television output. That would be current crop of cross-media mergers

#### Mad cow syndrome subsides

Irrational panic is over but lessons still need to be learned

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

then four weeks in politics can seem is an expensive month's loss on the like a whole era. Four weeks ago today the health secretary Stephen Dorrell stood up in the House of Commons to make his ill-fated statement on the link between BSE in cattle and the incidence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in humans. How long ago it seems. Yesterday of their political lives. But there is a the agriculture secretary Douglas Hogg came in with the interim bill — an aid package for farmers and slaughterers worth at least £550 million. It's not over | public are easily misled. That would be yet, but this is a sure sign that the mad cow month is beginning to end.

Mr Hogg painted a picture of substantial reconstruction. Cattle sales are the vulnerability of public confidence nearing 60 per cent of their pre-crisis in the food industry. Human ingenuity levels and beef consumption is back to is doing things to the food chain whose roughly 85 per cent of what it was a results we have barely begun to undermonth ago. The likelihood of a wholesale cull of all British beef cattle, an | The beef crisis is not a crazy aberration option that was being seriously can- and, unless we take real care, it could vassed at the height of the crisis, has all | be the shape of other crises to come.

IF A week is a long time in politics, | but disappeared. Even so. £550 million public spending account by anyone's reckoning.

The beef crisis will echo on for months and years, and not just financially. Those who have had to deal with it say it has been the worst experience danger that the affair will come to be seen in some quarters as an irrational spasm whose only lesson is that the a very big mistake. There are lessons to be learned from the beef crisis on all sides, but the most important is about stand, politically as well as biologically.



#### Letters to the Editor

## On receiving Short shrift Daddy, what did you do in the mother and father of all battles?

Clare Short has received from Tony Blair's backroom boot-boys. Ms Short made an oxthe cuff remark with which, I reckon, most Labour supporters and MPs agreed. On the other hand, when Harrist Harman did something which most Labour supporters and MPs opposed, she got cotton wool protection — a contra-diction which devalues the Blair project. Stick in there, Clare. New

Labour needs a conscience. Tony Samphier. 9 Doulton Gardens,

THE WAY Clare Short is carrying on may mean the Tories could play the same game that New Labour has been playing over the last year. By waiting for Opposition expect they could real tion errors, they could well gain percentage points by let-ting Ms Short do their work for them.

I am neither a Labour nor I am nettner a Lapour nor Conservative supporter, but I am amused by the nativeté of a relatively experienced MP such as Ms Short, who believes that a TV is "invading her privacy" by asking her a question relating to an inter-view given earlier. Ms Short and cannot expect the media | electorate could vote Labour | Walsall WS3 3SG.

AM sure that I am not the or respond only when she has or Conservative according to only person to be saddened something to say, regardless whether he or she earns less by the shabby treatment of whether or not she has or more than this figure. read Mr Blair's script. John Tempest. 9 Marriner's Drive, Heaton, Bradford, West Riding of Yorkshire

> CLARE Short may not have been confined to a Siberian power station, but she has been silenced just as draconianly for the merest mention of an Old Labour point of view on taxation. This episode raises again a lead balloon the question: what will the lan Gowans.

Blairite faction do in office i they succeed in being elected on a platform of Majorism minus Major? Where are the concrete policies that would give muscle to the vague stakeholding aspirations that still occasionally get a men-tion amid New Labour's rhetoric extolling entrepreneur-ship, the minimum state and obeisance to the global

economy?
J Wilfred Attenborough. 6 Spital Street.

T would help if the main po-litical parties were able to agree, in advance of the next election, on what constitutes Tom Ashton. 50 Whitworth Drive, Radcliffe on Trent, Notts NG12 2ER.

CLARE Short runs true to form. In 1975 I attended a course at the Civil Service College at which Clare Short was also a participant. I well remember her telling us other civil servents that we were all civil servants that we were all paid too much. This, as may be imagined, went down like a lead balloon.

3080 Tervuren, Belgium. F words mean anything, a "middle income" ought to mean an income around average earnings. The most con-servative estimates of Ms Short's income, based on her parliamentary salary and widow's pension, give a fig-ure of about £40,000, which is comfortably more than twice

average earnings.

What reason can there be for calling this a "middle income", unless perhaps it is similar to that of Guardian journalists who want to consider themselves just an ordinary Joe or Josephine? Baslow Road.

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### our years are nominally

dated from Jesus's birth, but that Jesus was probably born around 4-8 BC. Going by the dates in the Bible for Mary dis-covering she was pregnant, plus weather conditions in Bethlehem compatible with lambs around a manger, might this mean that the millennium breaks sometime in the next few weeks? If Mary was a few weeks pregnant before knew, could it be today? R J Robinson. 10 London Road Alton GU34 4EG.

'VE always understood that

oddity

N your article about Jeffrey Archer (Archer rivals, April

11), you quote from last year's
biography by Michael Crick
that I am "slightly irritated"
that my editorial role has not been fully acknowledged. This is not true and I have told Michael Crick as much. Richard Cohen. Richard Cohen Books, 7 Manchester Square,

ondon WIM 5RE. EFFREY Archer claims to have invented a new liter ary genre, the "novelo graphy". Let me suggest an al ternative term — "biogrovel".

Andrew Barrow.

Southsea PO4 9QH.

61 Bristol Road,

DR Pointon's suggestion (Letters, April 12) that mo-bile phone users should be restricted to one carriage per train is sensible. But of much greater benefit would be to restrict parents with underfives to one carriage; their off-spring make far more noise, of a far more irritating kind. Drowning out the noise of crying babies and over-excited toddlers is one of the main reasons I use a Walkman on Jon Harley. Coventry CV5.

YOU claim that 2.5 billion people watched the latest outpourings of Billy Graham (Home news, April 15). Was any detailed thought given to this remarkable, patently absurd claim? Does half the world's population even have access to television? Ian Johnston. 5a Alvanley Terrace

Edinburgh EH9 1DU.

H Smith's proposal to greater in a visit to a sex shop than to a newsagent. Your editorial out" of selling sex magazines, and your editorial suggestion of mind" tone neither solves out" of selling sex magazines, and your editorial suggestion (Don't mention "adult" magazines, April 13) to restrict their sale to sex shops, are forms of censorship. Britain does not have a large enough network of sex shops to compensate for the massive loss of retail outlets. Sex shops are also subject to punitive licens. these problems nor guaran-tees the rights of those who wish to read sex magazines; it reinforces the idea that the British preser reading Hot Water Bottles Weekly to sex. D Cameron. Upper Newington, also subject to punitive licensing restrictions designed to in-

The hard stuff (snigger)

HY do you refer to porno-graphic magazines as "adult"? As an adult myself, I hibit their existence. Both suggestions would make it more difficult to reach female, gay and sexual-minority readerships: the typically British embarrassment of buying a sex magazine would be far Worcester WRL Anne Dickinson.

#### Israelis under bombardment

Aternational reaction to Op-eration Grapes of Wrath seems predisposed to legiti-mise the Israeli position (Let-ters, April 16). Here we have a defensive operation employ-ing only pinpoint strikes against the "terrorists", while avoiding collateral damage (slaughtered civil lans) wherever possible. If not actually members of Hizbul-lah, the villagers of south Lebanon are surely lending their tacit support to the enemies of peace? If wounded women and children are reckless enough to ride in a Hizbollah ambulance, how can the Israeli gunners know this? The net effect is to dehu-

tire people. Richard Sockett. 262 Gladstone Avenue, London N23

HE Israeli attack on an ambulance must surely be regarded as an outrageous breach of international agreements such as the Geneva

manise, and demonise, an en-

As in 1993, the general in-ternational reaction to Op-eration Grapes of Wrath they had reasonable grounds for believing that the ambulances were being used for carrying out military operations. David Mellor.

71 Maxwellton Road, Paisley PA1 2RB.

ASK and ye shall receive, Colin Adams of Artillery Row (Letters, April 15): Michael Portillo is in Israel, sanctioning the bombard-ment of Lebanon while finger-ing his arms brochures. If, on ing his arms brochures. If, on always a moment of transhis return, he is too busy to fixed stillness. This stillness "help identify potential work for all areas of the public sector", I can tell him, gratis, that the village of Hiniych needs a couple of ambulances for the next generation of kids to be murdered in, and I believe there's a possibility of some building work in Tyre soon. Get in there quick and you could satisfy both sides. Simon Wood. 4 West Dean, Nr Salisbury,

Wilts SP5 1AJ.

DOS Coward quotes Yvonne have failed to draw any connection between these in the 90s, is a father for?"

(Make the father figure, April 12). One could also ask: "what is a mother for?" Once a child has been born, neither of its biological parants is pages.

Estimburgh FU2 4PC hiological parents is neces-sary. Children survive the death of their mothers as well as the departure of their fathers. Adoption works. The mothers versus fathers argument is sterile and diver-

sionary. Men and women are different and complementary. Children benefit from learning, understanding and celebrating this at first hand.

The problem is that men and women are not valued as equals — but we won't redress the imbalance by denigrating fathers, any more than by scapegoating single mothers. Lawrence Greenberg. 12 The Fairway, London N14 4NY.

THE IPPR conference to which Ros Coward refers is not the first on the subject Glasgow was the venue for Father Figures in 1994, orga-nised by the Association for the UN International Year of the Family. That conference included a consultant from the Equal Status Council in Den-

parental leave. Significantly, the Glasgow conference began on the day that the UK blocked a draft EU directive on parental leave. The same week, the Government put forward proposals to impose fines of £1,000 on the parents of persistent young of fenders. Social-policy-makers

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Edinburgh EH2 4RG.

BEA Campbell (Good rid-dance to the patriarch. April 16) states that the back-lash against the Child Support Agency was created by "men who won't cough up for their

In fact, the CSA was not con ceived as a maintenance-pro viding measure. It was nothing more than a cruel and cynically marketed form of texation upon a very vulnera-ble section of society. Bruce Lidington. Chairman, Families Need Fathers.

134 Curtain Road. London EC2A 3AR.

CAMPBELL is right to say that what women want from men is simply coopera-tion. Parenting is asexual, the difference between fathers and mothers is a matter of style which can be interchan-gable. There was a time when a man's role was to initiate his sons into manhood, through mark — a country which has employment (via apprentice-formulated policies enabling ships). This is still anthropo- and encouraging fathers to share responsibilities, such as well-being of society. If women are going to be at least equal to men as breadwinners then it will become incumbent upon all of us in the future to initiate our children into adulthood as well as change their nappies. Russell Celyn Jones. 45 Redston Road,

#### Animal harm

WE seem to have a sudden wave of compassion amongst some farmers and vets. Bob Stevenson, the BVA's president, said that he could not condone a mass cuiling of older cattle on moral and scientific grounds, and the farmers called his stand a "breath of fresh air". Why have neither felt the same compassion for the millions of animals they have been send-ing to the veal crates? When will consumers real-

ise that if they were willing to spend a few pennies more and demand cruel-free meat, they will get it? Let's get rid of the dealers and let the real farmers and the real vets in. Carla Lane. Broadhurst Manor,

Horsted Keynes, nr Haywards Heath, West Sussex,

#### **Grilled not fried**

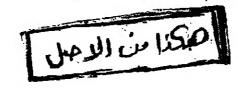
COULD the Robin Day regretting the libertles taken by his successors be the same man who famously told Roy Hattersley to "chuck it" and who advised Sir John Nott that he was a "here today, gone tomorrow politi-

Within sight of a general election, politicians will be posturing and lying their way through every radio and TV studio. That is why the vigor-ous interviewing of John Humphrys, Jeremy Paxmen et al are going to be essential. I look forward to hearing all those politicians who claim to speak for "the British people" tested to the full Meanwhile, Sir Robin Day is best left in retirement. Or on satellite TV. Peter Denton. Sunnyside Road Teddington TW11 ORP.

#### A Country Diary

THE WREKIN: She was superstition. To the Scots she branch, close against the trunk of a large beech over-hanging the edge of wet wood-land at the southern end of the Wrekin. Her plumage echoed all the colours of the wood: the beech's greeny grey, the oak's rich tannin, the alder's russet, the birch's dusty silver. The dark yew shadow of her eyes fixed me with a deep enclosing atlence. Although I've looked into the gaze of an owi before, it's unites submerged threads of mood and feeling, just as she united earthly fertility and underworld ghostliness for those who trod this path through spring woods thou-sands of years before me. Her face appears in neolithic mother-goddesses. She was the Indo-European prototype of the classical Minerva She was venerated by early Celtic cults. And then she vanished

watching me long before I became the night-hag. To the saw her. She seemed part of a branch, close against the corpse bird. She was Blodeuwedd who killed her hus-band, the god Lleu, and was turned into an owl. Suddenly her head spun round to face the wood and I realised that she had been watching me from the centre of her back. Her wings opened and with a few crushingly silent beats she was gone. Tawny wings into the tawny wood. She left behind that stillness which even spring birdsong couldn't break. Her plumage colours scattered into the trees. The mire wood of her vanishing is a sliver of alder, birch and holly growing from a sedgy swamp where spring water oozes from the bottom of the hill to begin a journey south through wooded dingles to the river Severn. In these woods, just as the flush of life is being drawn from dark mud, the owl's silence holds that deeply buried knowledge that Spring is both sex and into the twilight of legend and | death.



#### Diary

#### Matthew Norman

HERE is a scene in 1984 in which Win-ston's perception of the truth (the number of fingers held up) is altered by the huge electric current running through his brain. Did something similar once distort Peter Hitchens' ability, psychiatrists ask themselves today, to com-prehend his own facial hair? Following last month's "You the Jury" vote, the London Evening Standard has published an article declaring that the monstacheless beard—as also worn by Solzhenitsyn and Big Ears—is now officially known as "the Hitchens". The piece says that "nothing at all can rehabilitate the man with a mous-tacheless beard in his past," and concludes equally starkly: "The Hitchens is a mark of strangeness. There can be no mercy for its wearers." And still, would you believe, the Express's top Cheris Blair-hunter denies it. "I can't confess to it because the action of the state of th because it's not true," he says. "You can tell a lie a hundred times, and it doesn't make it the truth." learned to love Big Brothe but is there any way Peter Hitchens can be taught to love the beard to which he

Awards for Exports list has just arrived. What a pity it is "strictly embargoed" until Sunday. and that we are therefore unable to mention that the very first company on a list of over 100 is Anglo Beef Processors Ltd.

HE Daily Mail has

has now given his name?

been beastly to Mandy
Mandelson simply because he spent Easter in the
Far East. All the businessclass flights between Japan Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore, and the nights at five-star hotels, cost £6,000, a tab that was very sweetly picked up for Mandy by Barclays Bank. Mandy went, he says, to promote those already fabled trading links between the Far East and Hartlepool. As if sacrificing Easter in Hartlepool looking after constituents were not agony enough. Mandy now bas to endure the Mail's scorn. So what if neither Mandy's office nor Barclays Bank can supply an itinerary? They simply mislaid them, that's all, and the moment one turns up and is faxed over, I will be delighted to set the record straight by publishing the full list of Mandy's busines meetings in the East.

nailing the pernicious lie about Britain and class. "We are forever being told we have a rigid class structure," he tells the most excellent Andrew Duncan of the Radio Times. "That's a load of codswallop." In-deed so, Your Royal Highness, and how splendid to see that least slavish of 'constitutional experis', Lord Sin Gent of Fawning, backing you up on this one. Meanwhile, among a series of talks planned for the summer by Prince Edward's sociology thinktank, highlights include the Sultan of Brunei on "Poverty? What Poverty?" and the Duke of Westminster's three-part series, "Up By The Bootstraps: Pulling Oneself Out Of The Slums".

Grilled noth

ANY thanks to Prince Edward for

Nits bid to reassure the self-employed that there is nothing to fear about the new system of tax returns, the Inland Revenue has produced a booklet Guide explains that dealing with figures is easy . . . as easy, you might say, as counting from one to 20. Let's have a quick practice using the booklet's page numbers. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (see how easy this isi), 7, 16, 17, 18, 19, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20. Match this standard on a self-assessed tax return and you might even win the special bonus prize of a cou-ple of months with Her Majesty the Queen.

ICHAEL Winner: a correction. It was wrongly stated in the Guardian yesterday that Mr Michael Winner. the food critic and sporter of jumbo knickers, directed the controversial sci-fi movie Robocop, Robocop was a huge critical and commercial success, and we apologise unreservedly to Mr Winner for suggesting that he was involved in



### lesting market for the middle classes

### Commentary

#### John Gray

HAT does it mean to be middle class nowadays? Last week, in an inter-view for the Today programme, John Prescott ob-served that, though his social origins are working class, he is middle class now because he is a Member of Parliament. he is a Member of Parliament. Contrary to some rightwing media comment, Mr Prescott's statement expresses an eminently reasonable view. We all know that it is the sort of ioh one has that determines that all professions are conscissions against the laity. whether or not one counts as spiracies against the lativ. The governments of both middle classes. The trouble is that we all know, too, that jobs are not what they used to be. The sense that most of us against the ethos of the pro-

are riskier than they were in the past is not simply worty about the prospect of unem-ployment. It is the fear that,

have known them are becoming steadily rarer.

What gives a sharp, nervous edge to insecurity among people who think of themselves as middle class is not the prospect of long-term unemployment. For most of them that is still remote. It is the dim perception that the middle classes as a whole are being casualised.

being casualised.

The casualisation of the working lives of people who consider themselves middle class has many sources. Partly, no doubt, it is a result of new-right policies, which have long been based on Bernard Charte in property mineral many contractions.

have that our economic lives i fessions. For schoolteachers prison officers, social workers, civil servants, people in the armed services and many others, this has meant a morale-destroying regime of though unamployment may morale destroying regime of be lower in Britain than in the rest of Europe, jobs as we related pay and continuous monitoring.
Along with the deformation

of the professions by govern-ment-sponsored managerialism has come a vest expan-sion of contract work. It is this that gives the best clue to middle-class anget. For what the proliferation of contract work undermines is the con-ception of a career that under-pinned the bourgeois culture It is worth recalling, before

It is worth recalling, before it ceases to be sven an historical memory, that it was the structure given to life by a career that used to define the middle classes in Britain. A normal bourgeois life was one in which the phases of a career tracked the stages of the life-cycle. Moreover it was ing class that new-right policy it was re-proletarianised.

tion of the job by the growth of contract work tends to make working life fractured and, for many people, permanently provisional. It extends into the lives even of high earners the anxious, specula-tive and reckless psychology that arises from the impossi-

bility of long-term planning.
The decline of job-holding
in a deregulated labour market tends unavoidably to weaken and transform the inwester and transport the in-herited bourgeois culture of work. It pushes middle class people into a new version of the old market for dock workers in which they were hired and fired by the day. Under these pressures, middle-class people become day-labourers whose only asset is their

Their incomes are so unpredictable, they cannot easily save, take out a mortgage or plan for a pension

erto unrecognised class cul-ture — that of the lumpen-bourgeoisie. These former middle-class people lack the wherewithal to practise the old bourgeois virtues even if they want to do so. Because their incomes are so unpredictable, they cannot easily a future that is distant but controllable, then being middle class is an aspiration

The passing of the old middle-class culture has middle-class culture has many causes apart from new right policies. New technologies, which render the division of labour more fluid than ever before, make the project of a lifelong vocation a risky bet for anyone. Globalisation is working to intensify competition in labour markets as it has done in other markets.

which they can no longer

afford.

markets.
These are not trends that will alter in any foreseeable future. Nor can the policies of signed to nurture a new cul-ture of work — one in which people are actively helped to cope with the uncertainties that are undertaining the old that are undermining the old middle-class culture. Sadly, it is unreasonable to hope for any such policies before a good many MPs — but, happily, not Mr Prescott — have had forced upon them the chance to experience life in the Lump that their policies. the Lump that their policies have helped to create.

This is not a new repres-sion but a practical disci-pline built by experience

over time and applying to all parties. As early as 1883 Gladstone was gently rebuking Joe Chamberlain for getting out of line with agreed policy, arguing that remarks

that ran this risk and dealt

with subjects of high politics or otherwise delicate mat-

Members on the front bench are the party's front-line ambassadors and must put the party's case at all times. They must inevitably make decisions and must

collective responsibility in government is somehow dif-

front bench expressed per-sonal views when they dif-

fered from the agreed collec-

tive line, the result would be constant and unnecessary di-

versions, chaos and political

damage. This is not an argu-

ment about "free" speech. It is not a question of anyone being "gagged". It is a conse-quence of collective respon-

sibility which every member

of the shadow cabinet accepts.
In recent years discipline

and good order have become Labour's hallmarks. The Tories have been divided by

incompetence and civil war. As the election nears, these

### The woman who should save, take out a mortgage or plan for a pension. If being middle class means living for a future that is distributed by the same of the sa



Victoria Brittain

These are not trends that will alter in any foreseeable future. Nor can the policies of any government hope to reverse them. What it is reasonable to demand from government are policies designed to nurture a new culture of work — one in which people are actively helped to cope with the uncertainties the world body. Secretary that are undermining the old General Boutros Boutros

General Boutros Boutros Ghali, must not get the second term of office he is secretly campaigning for. The UN after 50 years is in an unprecedented crists of cash and credibility. It will be hankrunt in August without a

cash and credibility. It will be hankrupt in August without a change of policy by the US, which owes \$1.5 billion.

The only chance of saving the UN is the election of a Secretary-General with high personal moral stature, with a record of fearless telling of unpopular truths, and with the instincts of a democratic politician. There is an obvi-ous candidate with those qualities and one extra — she's a woman. Mary Robin-son, President of Ireland.

Under the byzantine and undemocratic practices of the UN, the Secretary-General is appointed by a consensus of the Big Five in the Security Council: the US, UK, France, Russia and China. There is no open campaigning, and there is a gentleman's agreement that no Secretary-General who wants a second term should be denied it.

Boutros Ghali, whose term ends on December 31 this year, has not said he's run-ning again, but it is an open ters "should be made as rarely and reservedly and, if the consummate diplomat I may say so, as reluctantly who has never offended anyone in power in his life (except for one uncharacteristic spat with US ambassador Madeleine Albright), this highly educated, multi-lingual 74-year-old suits the Security Council and it the add-onmake decisions and must be Council and is the odds-on able to trust colleagues to favourite to lead the world for stand by them. The idea that another five years.

But something unusual is follows we must behave like at rock-bottom after a heavy a government-in-waiting.

If every member of the the financial crisis. Even senior officials admit pri-vately that maybe the Secretary-General is part of the organisation's problem.
In Britain, faxed copies of the Nation article were circu- | world body's failure.

lating well before the magazine was in sale here. Senior members of the United Nations Association had already lobbied the Foreign Office to propose alternative names to Boutros Ghali's, and were appalled to find that there were apparently no al-ternatives proposed. (Could that have been because the other two names most often other two names most titlen mentioned are also formids-ble women — Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian prime minister, and Sadaka Ogata, head of the UN's refugee organisation?)
It is fashionable to let Bou

It is fashionable to let Boutros Ghali off the hook by
saying that the UN's recent
debacles in peace-keeping
come from the Security Council's failure to agree proper
mandates or funding.
These have indeed played
an important part in some of
the catastrophes of the past
four years, but they pale into
insignificance against the

insignificance against the misjudgments of the Secre-tary-General in Somalia, Western Sahara, Angola and Rwanda — to mention just four of the countries virtually destroyed by his policies. In Somalia he undermined

his own representative whose subtle political bridge-build-ing gave the country a chance of peace which was shattered by a US military operation backed by the UN. In West-ern Sahara he has allowed the King of Morocco to stall indefinitely a referendum on self determination, and turned the UN's mission, MINURSO, into an open scandal. In Angola he pressed ahead with UN supervision of an election in 1992 which was, in the opinion of many observers, bound to fail, and he subse quently made respectable a terrorist organisation which destroyed the country's infra-structure and killed half a million people in a new war. which killed a million people could have been checked by the Secretary-General.

HR less-than-straightforward recent UN atresponsibility for this, following an evaluation of the Rwanda genocide produced by dozens of independent specialists, goes to the heart of why he must be replaced. Boutros Ghali comes from a

culture too polite and passive to deter killers who have seen happening. A groundswell of the impunity with which support for Mrs Robinson has force is used from Chechenia bility in opposition is a non-sense. The proposition that cabinet ministers implement policy whereas opposition shadow-cabinet members Mary Robinson As UN Secre-liberties for the least repreformulate it is a distinction tary-General Photocopies are sented communities: the poor, without merit. Labour Is a circulating in droves in the women, unemployed people government-in-waiting. It UN building, where morale is and travellers. She has turned follows we must behave like at rock-bottom after a heavy a ceremonial tob into one in a ceremonial job into one in which she has set new agendas for justice and tolerance. The UN needs such a visionary who could, by her very appointment, break down the cynicism and hopelessness which now symbolise the

### Was Clare Short right to speak out? No, argues Donald Dewar, who demands a united front against the Tories; but Tony Benn, below, takes a more relaxed view

# Don't rock the roll

success story for Labour. The bypected. It left Tory claims of political and economic recovery in tatters — the bluster of a tired and dis-credited party that has lost

Tony Blair's visit to the United States was a huge event, From Wall Street to the White House, here was a man seen as the next prime minister, not because the polls said he would be, but because the arguments and policies he put forward suggested that he should be. The sight of Tony Blair on the steps of the White House reacting to the byelection put heart into Labour supporters everywhere. We

The roll continued as Brian Jenkins took his seat The Government was rocked by the anger over its hand-ling of the rail sell-off and the sweeteners that went with it. There is little point in denying that matters were then complicated by the publicity, often mischievous, over Clare Short's remarks on tax on a Sunday morning TV programme watched by journalists with column inches to fill and a desperate

need for news.

A good deal of nonsense has since been said and written about what members of the shadow cabinet can and cannot say about Labour's policies. Some newspapers have

tried to argue that what is at stake is free speech itself. They see authoritarian leadership cracking down on brave and honest souls who dare to speak the truth. This is not so.

There are two distinct issues of substance. The first is tax policy. Gordon Brown has set out the principles on which Labour will build. He has defined long-term priorities. Labour wants to introduce a new entry-point to the tax system, lower than the present 20p, which will benefit all; the Tories are committed to abolishing inheritance present 20p, which will benefit all; the Tories are committed to abolishing inheritance and capital-gains tax to help the few. The contrast is marked contrast to the as certainly as to the cabi-



stark. At this stage of course we cannot give detailed fig-ures about the immediate arithmetic, but then the Chancellor can't predict the contents of his next Budget.

Tories at the last election | net There has been of late a who promised tax cuts year | refusal, which is no doubt on year and then impos the biggest tax bike in

history.
The second issue is the

poltically convenient, to ignore the distinction between back- and front-bench responsibilities. The latter brings opportunities, of together and deny comfort to a government that should go. which are necessary if cabinet government is to work.

standards of discipline must be maintained. Every member of the present shadow cabinet accepts and under-stands that. The wider party understands it too. We are in a fight with a political enemy and playing for high stakes. It is our duty to stand

Donald Dewar is Labour chief whin

### Tricks of the cabinet trade

for his comments on the Prince of Wales and the heavy press-briefing against Clare Short for even suggesting that taxation ment need to be raised under a Labour government have been justified on the grounds that collective cabinet — and shadow cabinet — responsibility is an inte-gral part of the British constitution and must be up-

held at all costs.

It all began because ministers wanted to protect themselves against the king on the basis that it is better "to hang together than to hang separately". Nowa-days it is a totally arbitrary rule which abnost all party leaders try to impose on their colleagues in order to give the impression that ing for the press or our poliftical opponents, or both, to
suggest that the party is place in both the cabinet and survived — all the atlift Labour was elected.

In fact, collective cabinet responsibility is a very flex-ible concept, as came out when Mrs Thatcher put a parliamentary question to Jim Calleghan in June 1977 and the Prime Minister replied; 'I certainly think that the doctrine should apply except in cases where I announce that it does

During the 1975 referendum, the Labour cabinet reached an agreement to differ which allowed ministers to take both sides in that debate; but as it was all done with courtesy, the same cabinet could come together afterwards and continue its work as effec-tively as it had done before. Everybody knows that there are deep divisions on they are in charge and their writ runs across their whole party. They argue that any hint of disagreement will provide an one.

party leaders to impose the tightest possible discipline on their cabinet colleagues, I learned that there were THE highly publicised split and hence unfit for and the shadow cabinet. De-rebuke to Ron Davies government. mocracy is about represen-tation and discussion, and open debate is much preferable to the leaking and briefing which fuels the media with speculation,

usually around personal-ities who are projected as being perpetually at each others' throats. Ministers are elected and appointed - because of their convictions, not in spite of them. People must trust those in Parliament, and in the leadership of the parties, to hold to what they believe and to act as repre-sentatives, champions and educators as well as mere managers, or would-be managers, within a party machine.

We are often told that MPs should be more than party backs. But if they express an independent view, they are regularly de-nounced as extremists and wreckers trying to destroy their party and its prospects

ways of saying what had to be said that kept just within one was to look a long way ahead — perhaps 10 or 20 years — and suggest that, at some stage, it would be necessary to consider this or that alternative. Another

was to report sympatheti-cally the views of people that needed to be taken serionsly even if it might imply a new direction for government policy. In those ways, if all personal criticism was avoided, the debate could be moved on from the rather stale recapitulation of an official position that appeared to allow no amendment.

The argument about taxation that is now going on touches on a very important aspect of this very problem, and one I remember from the 1959 General Election when I was advising Hugh Gaitskell. Labour was doing very well until Gaitskell gave a pledge at the end of September that there would

tempts made by successive | Labour morale slumped and the Tories won a landslide. Maybe the shadow Budget presented in 1992 was also a mistake because no Chan-cellor of the Exchequer can decide what has to be done until he gets into the Trea-sury and opens the books. But political leaders have to have some confidence in

public, who know quite well that if you want decent public services, they have got to be paid for — and the only fair basis of taxation is the ability to pay.

The restatement of that

simple principle, with courage and commitment, would be more likely to win support than briefing journalists against people who say it.

If public confidence in democracy is to survive, the electors have got to believe that when their leaders speak, they are speaking their minds and not having their texts vetted in advance to be sure that they never'step out of line, or go against the trends of the latest opinion polls.

The Rt Hon Tony Benn is MP for

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Pabuck, writing

KTY Elliott

## A proud woman on a hard road

leath if she staved on the street, Maggie Donnelly, who has died aged 46, loved living on the hard, noisy and unforgiving pavements around London's

that she called her own. I first met Maggie when was researching an idea for a film about why women like her took to the streets. After a frustrating week of slog-ging around the West End. with assistant producer Jennie Cosgrove, we found Maggie. She had been living rough for 20 years.

Her bright blue eyes examined me keenly as I sat on the ground; she was concerned that I might get damp, and lent me a Sidney Sheldon thriller to sit on. She then gave me a thorough and sen-sible grilling about why I wanted to make this film.

I told her that I had been struck by the fact that media representations of street people often seemed to sug-gest they had no past. Why, I vondered, did any intelligent rson — especially a woman ( overrated).

filming began, the crew were concealed in a van to avoid disturbing the street life, while I gave directions over a radio link

For some weeks, I spent 14-16 hours à day on the pave-ments around Charing Cross, returning home just to sleep Although I consciously tried to blend in, after a week or two, Maggie took me to task for my appearance.

Fixing her bright eyes on me, she declared with mock

irritation: "You haven't shaved again: you look a right mess. I don't want you coming to see me like that. And look at your trousers; they're all creased. You are letting yourself go. What will your wife think?"

Maggie had great charm. She had read Shakespeare (and could quote from the plays), the Bible (several times) and endless trashy air-port thrillers supplied by commuters who were tickled that a tramp could read. She once had an argument about the literary merit of Lord of the Flies (she thought it was

in need of a drink, would cajole and rant. She once threatened to jump off Waterloo Bridge into the Thames because we would not buy

Sometimes, I was repelled at the sight of the most brutal, self-inflicted degradation I have witnessed in 20 years of documentary-making. ones in falls of mind-jarrin violence, and several times. the pavement with such force that I wondered if she would

ever get up. Yet she wanted to be left to get on with these

binges. The deep trips into oblivion would go on for

days.

When she was sober, she would wash each morning in the nearby ladies toilet. But her life was a pattern of extremes, and I learned to avoid seeing her on the danger days that coincided with her "giro" being paid out every two weeks. When the money and the drink sud-denly ran out, the binge would pass. Then she was ar-ticulate, well-read and all too

Maggie in Baglady . . . she showed spirited good humour and intelligence and painful honesty in the 1992 documentary trying to forget?
Maggie grew up in a respectable home in Grimsby. Teachers at her secondary school remem-bered her as a perky if

naughty pupil who was much liked by other children. At home, she suffered by com-parison to her older brother, cally brilliant Her first painful disapcointment came at the age of 16, when she discovered that her adored father was her adopted father. Feeling betrayed — and unloved by her adopted mother — she de-cided to leave home as soon

as possible. In one of her first jobs, she worked as a nanny to two small boys, one of whom had

event that seems to have trig-gered her lifelong self-de-structive urge took place in a show it to her; earlier ar-few moments. She had left a rangements had to be can-other "dossers". One was her had died when the hot bath running while the two children were playing upstairs and she went to feed

the dog in the kitchen.

By the time she returned,
the little boy with sensitive
skin had climbed or fallen into the hot bath and been fa-tally scalded. Maggie never stopped blaming herself for the child's death; her first problems with alcohol started shortly afterwards. sion to take part in a film she knew would expose her vul-nerabilities. But her spirited good humour and intelligence, together with her painful honesty showed so clearly on screen that we, at

our third or fourth attempt to show it to her; earlier ar-rangements had to be can-celled when she arrived blind drunk.

When the film was over, she said simply: "It is my life," and then cried bitterly over the waste of it all.
When she was younge Maggie had enjoyed periods of stability. At one stage, she even had a promising career, working with children in homes. She caught the eye of Laurie Bissett, matron at a home, who was to become her most loyal friend. Laurie tweedy, well-spoken and forthright — regularly took the train from Wiltshire to bring Maggie clothes and supplies. I once asked Maggie why

Doady, a street alcoholic who had lost both legs to frostbite; she looked after him on the

once been raped. Her books were often stolen by other When her health began to give way, Maggie was offered flat by the Drink Crisis Centre, a care organisation for street alcoholics. The drinking didn't stop, but it

declined Away from the relentless noise of the street, Maggie started buying pictures for the walls of the flat. But after

She knew her life would be short. But she felt a part of her had died when the little boy in her care had fallen in the bath. It struck me forc-ibly that Maggie's decline could so easily have hap-pened to almost anyone. short. But she felt a part of street for years until he had to move to a hostel. In the end, her liver just stopped functioning, as she must have known it would. But there were many har-rowing incidents. She had The last time I saw her in her flat, I said it was great to see

> herself. She raised a can as I "I wish I was still on the street I miss it; it's where I belong," she said.

Maggie Donnelly, bag Nevember 25, 1949

#### Letters

KW Payne writes: Your obituary of Alan lliffs (April 11), says that "He had joined the Army straight from school." In fact, Alan left Westliff High School near Southend-on-Sea at the age of 16 to become a trainee actuary. This was to the surprise of all, and to the chagrin of the headmaster, who had anticipated a presti-gious scholarship for his most brilliant pupil. I write as a contemporary schoolmate and friend of Alan, albeit we lost

Roger Kojon writes: I last met Chris Seward (Obituory April 10) at a WOMAD festival about three years ago. I had not seen him for a long time but we had years and it was typical of Chris that we immediately started talking and laughing. We talked with friends about music. Chris was very keen to hear some of the African musicians that were playing that weekend. The conversation moved on to the situation in Angola where Chris thought the easing of the Cold War would lead to a lessening of tension but he was aware it American film: Fernando was still a dangerous place. It | Birri and Julio Garcia Espinabout his fears and still rise to neo-realism movement which the challenge. In many ways he embodied the good things that came out of the political and cultural movements of the For Alea, it was not only Ros-1960s. He had ideals but did not sellini and his cameraman, parade them. He was open, Martelli, or Cesare Zavattini honest and generous but above all he loved life and was great fun to be with. Chris made a lasting impression on his tary coup, he returned to many friends around the Cuba where Fidel Castro. world and his untimely death | whom Titon remembered leaves a great sadness.

Tony Scott torites: I was privileged to campaign with John Powell (Obituary, April 4) in the Harrow Anti-Apartheid group from 1985-89. During those hectic years when both Nelson Mandels and South Af-rica were triumphantly freed. kind and good-humoured com-rade. Whether it was a March for Freedom in central Lon-don, a boycott protest or even a formal meeting, his enthusiasm and optimism never and was on its management flagged. He was a sterling asset to the cause of racial justice and equality. I never forgot his tip for marchers and runners to pack their trainers with newspapers to protect their feet. His jocular reluctance to heed warnings to mind the Burocrata (Death of a Bureau traffic, was idiosyncratically what typified John Powell, who I shall remember with (Memories of Underdevelop film, Guantanamera, is an interest in the control of the control o

#### Tomás Gutiérrez Alea

# Changing reality in Cuba

only one of its most internationally admired directors but a great artist and intellec tual who made an extraordinary impact on contemporary

Titon, as he was affection-ately known by friends and colleagues, was born in Havana. He studied music, and graduated in law from Havana University in 1951. Bitten by the filmmaking bug (hetween 1947 and 1950 he had shot various shorts), he set off to study film direction at the Centro Sperimentale film school in Rome. There, he became friends with other stuthese young filmmakers pas-sionately embraced and took but also Buriuel and Godard, who were lasting influences.

In 1953 after Batista's milifrom university, was also making headlines. Also be-came involved in the new political ideas of revolutionary Cuba, and in 1955 he co-directed (with Julio Garcia Espinosa) El Megano, a medium-length film about the police kidnapping of a coal worker. Up to that point, Cuba was a country with little cinematic history or structures, but lution in 1959, Titon was in-strumental in the founding of committee until 1961. A fertile film-making period followed with *Historias de la Revolu-*cion (Stories from the Revolution, 1961). Las Doce Sillas (The Twelve Chairs, 1962). Cumbite (1964), Muerte de un



ment) that he achieved international recognition. His study of bourgeois alienation in the midst of a socialist revolution generated a great deal of interest in the film-making movements of Latin America Apart from awards at the Kar-lovy Vary festival, Memories of Underdecelopment made it to the New York Times list of that year's top 10 films. Alea was one of the best in-tellectual critics of the revolu-

tionary process in Cuba and he was never afraid of dealing with taboo subjects. In 1993, with Fresa y Chocolate (Straw-berry and Chocolate), he broke ground again, generat-ing a national debate in his story of a gay man and his plea for toleration and understanding in a society ruled by machismo. The film won a Silver Bear at the Berlin Film

aise of bureaucracy on Cuba. All of Alea's films have a reat critical sense of the reality that surrounds his characters; they are also a study of the bourgeois mentality. His treatment of these themes is always sharpened by a sophisticated sense of hu-mour, by satire, and by a hu-manistic respect for his characters. It is this combination that made Alea's view on Cu-

feeling because I know I have too many projects and not enough time to do them. Cinema cannot be considered only as an instrument to change reality, there are let's face it, more efficient ones. If I make films it is also to satisfy a need to express and communicate, to establish contact with the world, to understand it and enjoy it bet-ter ..."

han society achieve universal impact.

Perhaps his philosophy is more eloquently expressed in his own words: "Cinema relates directly to a social reality. It takes from it some clarectly and the strength of his personality, by his determination to create a cinema of universal values that spoke about human concerns. I remember fondly his elements and puts them in order to achieve new meanings. This process can either distort reality or advance it to a more profound stage. The latter is, of course, what we all try to achieve. Each new first least try in achieve. Each new first least try in a chieve. Each new first least try in a chieve. Each new first least try in a chieve.

other satirical stab at the mal- | craft again. It's a disturbing | satisfaction: to have achieved | he had spent his life railing. such a body of work against all odds and to have put Cuba on the world cinema map. Even as, in recent years, the revolution began to collapse, and many intellectuals left the island, Alex continued to live in Cuba and make films — to improve the situation from the inside.

some time with Titon in the summer of 1993 while he was filming Strawberry and Chocolate. He was already suffering from the effects of lung cancer but he was determined not only to finish the film but to survive longer than anyone expected him to.
He did. Despite such severe restrictions of budget and resources, I marvelled at his calmness. He told me that film I start, unlike Bergman, does not seem my last but my moved. I saw in the face of trait due mainly to a course first. It's as though I learn the this modest giant a glimpse of of homeopathy; he said that

This was hard to believe because on that makeshift film set in old Havana he had the respect and love of everyone in the crew. By then he had established an ensemble of technicians and actors who worked at a speed that would have pleased the most parsimonious producer scriptwriter, the actors and his cameraman, Mayito, who all seemed to be speaking in shorthand. Finally, Titon would quietly give his directions, and the scene would be transformed from

words on paper to cinematic storytelling, fluid and dramatic. In a country that demands political orthodoxy, Titon carved out his own critical space. Even when seriously ill, he made it look easy.

Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, filmmaker, born December 11, 1928; died April 16, 1996

enly described this as an act

of looting. The picture, in fact, was of two journalists

who were helping a family

#### Birthdays

Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranalke, prime minister of Sri Lanka, 80; Chris Barber, trombonist, bandleader, 66; John Barrett, tennis com-mentator, former Davis Cup-centaly, 55; Lean Cleans captain, 65; Joan Clague, former director of nursing rial Foundation, 65; Norman Cowans, cricketer, 35; Ruth Etchells, former principal, St John's College, Durham, 65; Clare Francis, yachtswo-Freud, fashion designer, 35; Anne Harris, former chair-man, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 71; Olivia Hussey, actress, 45; Yvonne Kapp, biographer of Eleanor Marx. 93; Henry Kelly, broadcaster, 50; James Lest, bandleader, 67; Joyce Molyneux, chef, 65; Ricardo Patrese, grand prix driver, 42; Dora Saint (Miss Read), writer, 83; Ann Shir-ley, actress, 78; Sir Michael Vernon, chairman, RNLI, 70; The Rt Rev John Yates, head of the Archbishop of Canterbury's staff, 71.

BOCK, Florence Johannia Herriettia, peacerality at borne at April 14th 1866, aged 53 vests, Much loved by Garfield, Cline, her foving tamily and respy dear intends, Puneral at Putney Veile Crematorium on Friday April 19th at 10.30mm, Femily flowers only, Donations in Illeu to World's End Heeliticare Team and the Harding Housing Association of to Clasiasa Funeral Director's 250 Fulham Road SW10 9EL

Furniss General Mosibial, Joyce aged 6t years of Grown Cottage, Chepels, Krby-In Furnisse, retired schoolmetriess termenty of Motham. A most dear triend of the labs May and l Merton Road, Wandsworth, London SW15.
KONN, Jack has pessed away on the 10th of April 1995. If you wish to pay your last raspects he will be brought home on Wednedday 17th of April, Flat 10g, Seymour Buildings, Seymour Place, London Wil The knew Seymour Place at noon on Thursday 18th April for The West London Crematorium at Kengal Green, Harrow Road, London W10 4RA where the Juneau service will take place at 12.30.

TUCKER, Gerald Favorit, A.R.C.A. (Gerry, 79, died peacetully, Portsmouth, 4 April. Cremation Portchaeter, Hante, 15 April at 2pm.

### In Memoriam

# Jackdaw

#### Jacket required

APPARENTLY, it's now fash-ionable to look like an author. Since records began, authors have been dressing like your embarrassing cousin from Solibull in garments that looked as though they had been bought from Milletts by someone who was blindfolded and on Valium. Even if you are not personally acquainted with a novelist, this sartorial ineptitude is evident in almost any work of fiction. Only in novels will chic and desirable in a flame kaftan" or a hero whose jacket proclaimed him the

most stylish man in the

I used to work quite hard at being an exception to this . . . I used to think myself a swan among the geese that were my fellow scribblers. Then I started dating a stylist . . . I was encased in flat-front slacks and V-neck jerseys and nylon anoraks. I was worried that I looked like a nerd. "Don't worry about it, babe. Nerd is in. Just remember that you're wearing it ironi-For the cover of my next

book I'm not wearing any Frank Ronan ruminates on the author's jacket in the Tatler's Innocent Bystander section. His collection of short stories, Handsome Men Are Slightly Sunburnt, is published by

#### Home help

BEWARE THE hidden dangers lurking in your home. Yes, you may think that the cruet set on top of the table-cloth looks harmless enough, but cruet sets sent 13 people to accident and emergency in

1994, and tablecloths a further eight . . . Five people had a run in with a sieve, 21 with clothes pegs, 31 with a sponge or loofah, 66 with buttons and 76 with a paper hankie... Only 47 people were hurt by a

by a balloon.

In medicine . . . eight had trouble with eardrops, a further eight with nose/eye drops and 52 with vitamin pills or powders, while anal-gesics topped the league with 510 accidents. And three vis-ited hospital as a consequence of thermometer use. So rife is the home with the potential for injury that even a mini version harbours risks --- with 20 people suffer-ing at the hands of a Wendy

firework, compared with 56

Chemist & Druggist reports on the Department of Trade and Industry's latest Home Accident Surveillance System report. Thanks to Joseph Nicholas.

#### in the van

AS WE GET into our car and start to leave the compound, some heavily armed Khmer

Rouge soldiers charge in through the main gate. They guns to our heads and stomachs and order us to put our hands over our heads. They take everything - our car. cameras, typewriters, radio, knapsacks—and push us Into an armoured personnel carrier ... We all get in — three journalists and our driver, Sarun —except for Pran. We hear him continuing his entreaties in Khmer outside . . . Finally he climbs in and the armoured car starts to rumble forward. After a few minutes of chilled silence. Sarun turns to me and . . . tells me that Pran, far from trying to get away, was doing the opposite — trying to talk his way into the armoured car. The Khmer Rouge had told him to leave, they didn't want him, only the Americans and "the big people". He knew we had no chance without him, so he argued not to be separated from us, offering, in effect, to for-

rear door clangs open. We are ordered to get out. As we move, crouching through the door, we see two Khmer Rouge soldiers, their rifles on their hips pointing directly at us. Behind them is a sandy riverbank that slopes down to the Tonie Sap River. Rockoff and I exchange the briefest of fear-struck glances. We are thinking the same thing — they're going to do it here and roll us down the bank into the

river. But we climb out, like zombies. No shots are fired. Pran. resumes his pleas, searching an officer. For a solid hour he keeps appealing, cajoling, begging for our lives. The officer sends a courier on a mo-torbike to some headquarters in the centre of the city. We wait, still frozen but trying to hope, as Pran continues talk-ing. Finally, the courier returns, more talk - and then, miraculously, the rifles are lowered. We are permitted to have a drink of water. I feit his own life on the chance that he might save ours... Suddenly, after a 40-minute ride, the vehicle stops and the pulled it off. look at Pran and he allows himself a cautious smile. He's done it, I think, he's

Sydney Schanberg's report from Cambodia in January 1980, reprinted in the New York Times Magazine's

#### Untimely

OUR REPORT on looting and violence in Sarajevo's suburbs was accompanied by a photograph showing two men carrying a television set from a building; its caption mistak-

Santa Hours and Harris

Ton up . . . NYT magazine

move its possessions out of a building that had been set on fire by a band of extremists. TIME regrets the error.
A correction from the current issue of Time magazine.

#### Window closes

HE'D BEEN on The Team. The team for the Windows 95 launch. As a marketing guy, he'd helped spend the \$200 million Microsoft had devoted purely for advertising for the roll-out. Some of his ideas had actually sailed . . . Only a week before the launch date, Brad made the fatal slip of the tongue. Chalk it up to fatigue. Or his penchant for self-destruction. Over satay with two R & D guys in a cool new pan-Pa-cific place in a strip mall not far from Microsoft's Redmond campus, Brad had said simply, "Windows 95 equals Mac '89." That's all. The waiter took the check and Brad noticed that he took his sweet time returning. When

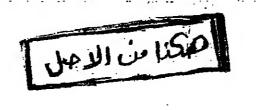
he did the waiter wore a Roth, your company credit card has been declined." Brad got a bad feeling. Back in the marketing pod

of the leafy, lawny Microsoft campus, he could tell the pink slip in his mail box was a different shade from the ones that showed up randomly and usually contained stock options. There was only a single e-mail: "You have not been selected to fill your current position. If you wish to talk further, I am always avail-able through bills@Microsoft.com. Bill." An instalment from Pat DU

ion's roman à clef about life at Microsoft, serialised in the San Jose Mercury on-line edition (http://www.sjmerciay.com/ lastbest/1-1.htm).

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian .co.uk\_fax 0171-718 4866. Jack daw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R SER

Dan Glaister



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# Finance Guardian



Pedal power . . . Author Colin Dexter, with a student as his driver, was one of the first customers as the Oxford Rickshaw Company rolled yesterday

# Asda fights drug pricing

### Euro-challenge to medicines cartel

theath Notices

Memorian

SDA; the supermarket chain, is fighting to crush medicines only months after on the Net Book Agreement.
Asda, served with a High Court injunction when it cines last October, is taking fellowing outmoded piece of junk law bottle with a dosage on the fight to the European Asda's first campaign last which limits competition and back."

Which limits of the fight of the fight to the European Asda's first campaign last which limits competition and the fight to the fight to the European Asda's first campaign last which limits competition and the fight to the European Asda's first campaign last which limits competition and the fight to the

force the drug companies and other high street chemists to scrap the retail price maintenance on over-the-counter

drugs.
The £8.2 billion supermarkets group said yesterday that, the system was "junk betweet the system was "junk to pay over the odds for medicines and vitamins."

matter promptly.

The campaign is the latest populist move by Asda, which last year led a successful assault on the Net Book Agreement, a similar price-fixing agreement in the book

Mick Cooper, Asia's corpo-rate counsel, said retail price ngaintenance, had originally been inhoduced in the public interest, but now allowed drug companies to fix prices higher than necessary.

year, but which is not expected to announce its findings until the autumn.

Asda said the price controls infringe the Treaty of Rome, and that it was urging the commission to deal with the matter promptly. ever. Now retail price mainte-nance must go."

> declaration over the next fort-night from Dutch customs and excise officials. They are expected to say that the price of bulk cod liver oil — which currently comes under the system — should not be fixed. Mr. Cooper: added: "With that ruling in our hands, the public will be saking why they have to pay artificially high prices, just because multi-national drug compa

10,000 pharmacists across the country, immediately conemmed Asda's action, claiming that it could put some nists out of business Tim Astill, the association's

director, warned that those chemists which survived would probably end up stock-ing a smaller range of He added: "It seems Asda

are quite keen on getting rid retail price maintenence, and having been jumped on by the High Court, are pursuing other avenues."

He was backed by Boots,

Britain's biggest chemist,

A Boots spokesperson said: "We are fully supportive of retail price maintenance on and do not believe there has been any significant change in the market since 1970,

when this was last reviewed."
But Kingfisher, which owns Superdrug, said last night. 'In principle, we are against retail price maintenance. We haven't seen details of this specific action, but we would

There was no immediate response to Asda's latest initiative from SmithRline Beecham or Reckitt & Colman two of the four companies behind last year's injunction— or from Hanson, owner of Seven Seas, one of the main

#### Notebook

### Feelgood factor banishes nerves



Edited by Patrick Donovan

process of overcoming its hang-up about the very real possibility of a Labour government. For weeks, highly paid strategists have put the Footsie's listless performance down to market lears about the political un-And yet within days of the

Tories latest byelection humiliation, the markets are second day running, the in-dex soared past the 3800 barrier to close 40 points higher.

The explanation seems to be that the spate of 'feelgood statistics" seems to have overcome the City's political nervousness. With such com-pelling evidence that the retail sector is back on the growth tack, traders seem to have thrown caution to the of their biggest buying sprees since the beginning of the year. Yesterday's bumper profits from Tesco were just another sign shoppers are

coming back to the market. This change in sentiment is having such an effect on the with three other factors. First, the market was due for something of a bounceback because London shares have been artificially held back by

political uncertainty. Second, this upwards cor-rection has been given added momentum by the surge in Wall Street over the last few "decoupling" of international markets. London shares

And third, the scene has honanza because of the sheer volume of cash which has been pouring into institu-tional coffers. Cash flow is standing at a record 260 million, largely because of the spate of mega share buybacks and cash takeover bids.

The markets may not be en-dorsing Labour. It's just that the much-hyped "political fac-tor" becomes breelevant when the City is on a roll.

#### Reducing pills

SDA was last year very largely responsible for destroying the Net Book Agreement Now they seen bent on throwing open the drugs market to a discount bonanza by challenging the retail price maintenance agreement which pees the prices that chemists can charge for over-the-counter medicines.

Just as publishers "over-charged" for books, Asda is claiming that pharmaceutical companies make unjustifiably high profit margins on branded medicines. does not mean that Asda deserves support for its decision yesterday to refer a formal complaint about Britam's sys-

complaint about Britain's sys-tem of price controls to the European Commission.

Asda's arguments need to be treated with caution be-cause they fail to address what impact price discount-ing would have on the netists. There must be a risk that this change would allow big supermarkets taking an increasing share of the overall

forcing a discount war could have long-term repercussions for the amount of money available for pharmaceutical R&D. Many mature OTC drugs effectively subsidise new products in the labora-tory pipe-line.

Undoubtedly, drugs manu-facturers could afford to cut portant to be exploited as a public relations stunt by a publicity hungry super-market chain. You can't market drugs like the latest Jilly Cooper blockbuster.

#### PFI substitute

the Private Finance Initiative unfold over the past four years have known for some time that it's a disaster waiting to happen.

governments everywhere sector would be invited to build new infrastructure proects that would supplement

But as with most flendishly simple ideas, the reality has been a bit different. Despite a list as long as your arm of projects "in the pipeline", few have actually been built. The biggest, juiclest PFI deal of all — the Channel Tunnel Rail Link — is only going ahead

All this and more is de tailed in the report yesterday by the Conservative-domi-nated Treasury select committee which makes some telling criticisms. It rightly concludes that the PFI has be come a substitute for public investment rather than a source of additional funding; it says the scheme makes long-term planning more difficult; and it is worried that projects will be determined

by profit rather than need. These are all perfectly valid points, made even more tell-ing by the lukewarm response of the supposedly go getting private sector, which liked the certainty of the old system and is reluctant to take on oodles of extra risk.

None of this, of course, cuts any ice with the Government, which has developed a messi-anic belief that the private sector will provide better value for money and "more bangs for the buck". Indeed, ministers rather resemble Napoleon and his chums in Animal Farm, forever chanting "private sector good, pub-lic sector bad" when the real message is that if the Government wants Britain to have a decent, modern infrastructure there is no substitute for That may be so. But this putting up the money itself.

### Minister admits PFI merely way to save money

MPs sceptical as Jack promises more bangs for the buck, writes Larry Elliott

HE Government's much-vaunted Private Finance Intitiative is now seen as a cost-saving measure rather than a source of extra infrastructure spending, the Trea-sury minister in charge of the scheme said last night.
Michael Jack, the Financial

Secretary to the Treasury, so-cepted a central thrust of a critical backbench report on the PFI when he admitted that the only additional money for public investment would come from better value for money.

Despite the scepticism ex-

pressed by the Conservative-dominated Treasury select committee, Mr Jack said the Government had already addressed some of the con-cerns of MPs and the private sector, insisting that PPI would deliver better services and "more bangs for the

However, Labour seized on the findings, with Shadow chief secretary Andrew Smith saying the report was evidence of the Government's "mishandling" of the PFL

The select committe report, while supporting the idea of the PFI in principle, expressed concern about the planning of investment, the possible cost to the public purse, the reluctance of the private sector to become involved and the slow progress in getting projects off the

"It is arguable that the PFI hands over a considerable number of capital projects to bodies whose main concern is the profitability of the facil-

ity," the report said.

"If the need for a facility and its probable profitability do not coincide, the Government will need to take steps to ensure that services continue to be planned and provided".

the NHS could be starved of investment if the PFI falled to deliver. 'The concern is that capital spending in health will be cut on the basis of expected PFI investment that bas yet to materialise". The British Medical Associ-

ation was also critical of the way the PFI has operated. "Capital projects will go ahead only on the basis of profitability rather than health need," said James Johnson, chairman of the BMA's central consultants "Indeed, the PFI is planned

to replace NHS financed capi-tal spending — so that profit-ability may be the only criterion for a capital development to go ahead."

The Treasury committee report noted: "It would be un-

ment's planning for the future provision of roads or hospi-tals began to be driven by the shorter-term perspectives of private bidders. It added that there was "rather haphazard system" of monitoring commitments entered into across Whitehall under the PFI and measuring

their future implications for the public purse. Mr Smith said that Labour wanted "a genuine public pri-vate partnership where it works best in the public inter-est. The PFI should not be a vehicle for privatisation and excuse for cutting overall capital investment or a means of downgrading need as a crite-rion for public investment".



### Bid gossip and spending news push share prices to new highs

FRESH flurry of bid A speculation, coming on top of this week's news of an amparent recovery in share prices racing to record levels again yesterday.

With dealers reporting brisk business across nearly all stock market sectors, the FTSE 100 index of leading companies jumped 34.8 points to a new peak of 3825.5.

This display of confidence in the Square Mile has caught

many equity strategists off guard, with institutional fund managers and private inves-tors alike rushing to buy tors alike rushing to stock despite last week's byelection, which reduced the Government's majority to equity strategist at stock-broker James Capel, "out of

CHILE'S state-owned metal producer, Codelco yester-day issued a writ alleging bribery against a second Lon-

don-based commodity trading

company as the investigation into the City's lucrative cop-

press conference in Santiago by Luis Bates, president of Chile's State Defence Council.

and posted at the Royal

Courts of Justice in London,

claims that a \$1.5 million

(£1 million) payment was made to a Codelco employee.

The cash sent by Metallgo-

sellschaft, which trades on the London Metal Exchange, was allegedly paid into an ac-count opened in the Cayman

Islands by a former Codelco

futures operator, Juan Pablo Davila, Mr Bates claimed.

The investigation dates

back to 1994, when Codelco revealed \$178 million losses in

be due simply to adverse mar-

ket conditions. But the writ

refers to "fraud" and names

At first this was thought to nation.

copper futures trading.

itters". Instead, dealers are now betring that the boom in cor-porate mergers and takeovers

government is likely to tighten controls over take-overs, companies are trying to agree deals in advance of the General Election. Share prices have also been

Chileans issue bribery writ

per market intensified.

The action, disclosed at a don-based firm, Sogemin. The

against City copper dealer

the byelection to herald an ex- out of corporate balance term so things can be made to tended period of "pre-election" in the lock rosey in time for the next

Conscious that a Labour

boosted by the fashion for share buy-backs and special returning spare cash to share-holders ahead of any moves by a Labour government to restrict dividend payments in favour of reinvestment.
"Cash is flooding into the

City analysts had expected | maturing Tessa accounts and

don, its German parent com-pany, Metaligeselischaft AG, and a furmer broker with the firm, Wolfgang Becker.

not returning calls but Mr

Becker, who now works in Hamburg, confirmed he was

Earlier this year, City law-yers acting for Codelco issued

latest move by a producer nation against the City's cop-

per market follows news that the Securities and Futures

Authority is investigating an-

other British company which profited from specialising in copper, Winchester Commo-

Earlier this week it was dis-

closed that the founder of

Winchester. millionaire dealer Charles Vincent, who earnt the nickname Copper-

fingers, had unexpectedly resigned from his place on the

board. Yesterday, the SFA

stated that, contrary to ear-lier reports, it had been in-

formed of Mr Vincent's resig-

The SFA has also been talk-

ing to Winchester about a

small number of deals con-

The London company

rware of the action.

"With interest rates low

and looking to stay low for some time, people are simply looking for somewhere to put Everyone has been sur-

prised with how smoothly the market has dealt with the po-litical uncertainty," said Nick Knight, head of global strat-egy at Japanese broker Nobe getting it wrong. Traditionally, for the markets Labour spells reds under the bed. It's looked under the bed and can't find any, and so everything is perceived to be OK.
"Yet the potential proble is that New Labour is too much like Old Tory - and the new Government will be

Merger 1

RRGER talks between

MBritish Telecom and

Cable & Wireless moved

into top gear yesterday when their chairmen and chief executives met for the

recommendations from their financial advisers.

Sources close to the talks said Str Iain Vallance and

Sir Peter Bonfield of BT and Dr Brian Smith and

Rod Olsen of C&W had

their first substantive

meeting since earlier at-tempts to hammer out a deal collapsed at the begin-ning of March.

All four were said to be

cautiously optimistic about

the progress being made towards finalising a

£35 billion-plus merger -

still thought to be some

The original talks failed mainly because the two

sides were unable to agree a price. The groups' bank-

ers started exploratory

talks at the end of last

weeks off.

tempted to copy the old Tory trick of baving a recession early in the parliamentary

|Telecom talks change pitch

as top executives play C&W

look rosey in time for the next election. The real threat is election, interest rates will go up fast." Share prices were also helped yesterday by Mon-

the British Retail Consor jumped 7.5 per cent — the biggest rise for more than two years — fuelling hopes that confidence is finally returning to the High Street

Yesterday's surge in prices in London was mirrored in New York, where forecasts of more big takeover bids pro-pelled shares to record levels. In Frankfurt, the IBIS DAX index rose to an all-time high despite government recogni-tion that growth this year would fail to meet its 1.5 per cent target.

regulator, unwittingly pro-vided a spur to the reopen

ing of the talks when he said in mid-March that he

intended to continue with tight price controls on BT's

retail market in the United

determination to reduce its

dependence upon the UK

market. A merger with

C&W. whose operations are

mainly overseas, seemed

the ideal solution. .
Analysts said last night

that boardroom level talks suggested the bankers were

confident they had lined up buyers for two C&W opera-

tions which will have to be sold — the 80 per cent stake

in domestic phone operator

Mercury Communications

and the 50 per cent holding

in mobile phone operator

Kinedom until 2001. The move increased BT's

#### Maverick unable to turn UBS shareholders against board

#### Merger 2

Join Glover in Zarioh

SIX thousand shareholders of Union Bank of Switzer-land in Zurich's Hallen Stadium yesterday delivered a vote of confidence in the the outgoing chief executive Robert Studer and three other candidates to the board by a margin of almost 63 per cent. Mr Studer will now become chairman of the board, replac-

ing Nikolaus Senn, who becomes honorary chairman. The result was "according to expectations", said Mr Senn. The vote was a slap in the face for Martin Ebner the maverick financier who, in maverick financier who, in for a merger of two of the big the name of shareholder three banks," Mr Senn said. value, has tormented the But he predicted restructur-board of Switzerland's richest ing in the Swiss banking in-

Mercury One-2-One. The shares of both comnanies have risen sharply since the companies announced that exploratory talks had resumed. Last £11.7 billion and BT at Ebner said UBS had not produced satisfactory returns on

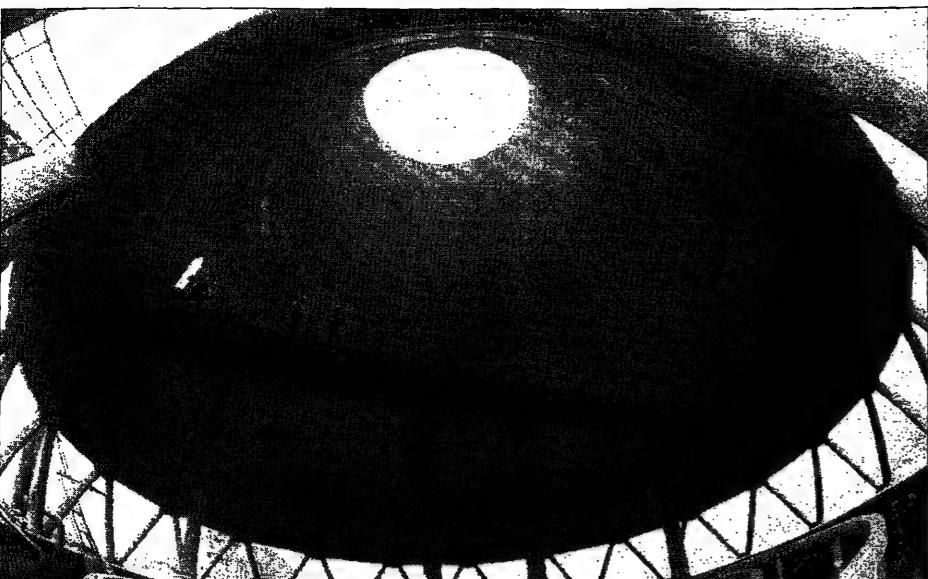
its vast capital.
At the meeting Mr Ebner called for "a board and a man-

agement which has the capacity to implement a clearly defined strategy geared to optimising returns". This is code for an aggressive restructuring of the Swiss branch network and for the bank's withdrawal such as lending to multinational corporations.

A similar result might also be achieved by merging two of Switzerland's three big banks. Last week UBS rejected a proposal from Credit Suisse that the rival institutions begin merger talks. This is not the right moment financial institution. Mr dustry would continue.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS France 7.47 Germany 2.2050 Greece 358.00 Hong Kong 11.48 India 51 51 Australia 1.85 Cyprus 0.7020 Denmark 8.55 Finland 7.09

hely 2,330 Maita 0.5350 Netheriand 2.4675 New Zealand 2.16 Horway 9.58 Backway 277 PD Portugal 227 00 Turkey 106, 131 Saudi Arabia 5.63 USA 1.4750



# Valley of the info technocrats

#### WORKFACE/ Geoffrey Gibbs examines a plan aimed at reviving the decaying former Welsh mining communities

NNOVATIVE proposals | munities and is seeking prior | had soared, drugs were ram | a whole) and the communities for the creation of a technical support for the pant and young people had no nology-based "industrial pilot project." | had soared, drugs were ram | a whole) and the communities | have suffered the loss of nology-based "industrial pilot project. village" are being put before government as the means of rescuing a oncethriving South Wales valley from the cycle of decline and deprivation that has followed the collapse of the coal mining industry. The proposals, drawn up by

Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, and officers from the Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council, are simed at bringing some 900 jobs to the Dulais Valley where Blaenant, the valley's last deep mine, closed in 1990.

Mr Hain, who outlined the

In an impassioned plea to Welsh Secretary William Hague ahead of yesterday's meeting, Mr Hain warned: "The Valleys are dying." Long-term unemployment was desperately high and new jobs were often part-time and

always low-paid, he said.
"Where the old stereotype
was of a miner on a decent industrial wage with a wife at home, now it is his wife who is working, on a third or, at the husband kicking his heels at home. This is a recipe for despair and social disintegra-

once vibrant, enterprising communities die. It is no good pretending the Valleys can become mere commuter belts for the M4 corridor. Trans-

on partnership between gov-ernment and private enter-

Mr Hain, who outlined the plans at a meeting at the Weish Office yesterday, believes the concept could be applied to other declining com-

port is poor. People are used to working near their homes. We need a new economic agenda for the Valleys based

struck deep into the village communities of Onllwyn,

shops, sarages and the bank, with the result that villagers must travel out of the valley for all but everyday needs. Although vacant business units and development land are readily available, inten-

through the creation of local indigenous business entersive marketing has so far failed to attract inward inprise and through attracting the Dulais Valley strategy acknowledge, the valley suffers from an image of being For Dulais, the process of remote, isolated from the decline that set in with the main highway network and closure of Blaenant has with a small consumer base. Adding insult to injury, the site of the former colliery pre-

inward investment — a pro-cess that is expected to be-come easier following comple-tion of the A465 dual carriageway through the Vale of Neath.

- has been established with the determined aim of turn-

ing the tide of decline by bringing the "industrial vil-

lage" concept to life. New jobs would be creat

In addition to the economic initiatives, the proposal — which requires anticipated funding of £19.75 million embraces a cocktail of mea-sures including education

village communities, local authorities and private industry designed to recreate the natudesigned to recreate the natural woodlands destroyed by the industrial revolution. "New technology and expertise will be a central fea-ture in the 'industrial village'

concept," say the authors of the report. "It will provide an important resource, and focus on industries and services for which geographical location is not a primary consider-"In terms of dispersed,

small communities, telematics [long-distance transmission of computerised information] provide the means to reduce distance and remoteness. This would involve information technology sures including education being an everyday feature of and training, community the school, library/resource development initiatives, and centre, workplace and home."

## Taxpayers 'to pay for nuclear clean-up'

Chris Barrie on a damning analysis of Whitehall's pre-privatisation proposals

down nuclear power stations unless the industry is forced to raise its contribution to the long-term clean-up costs by more than 10 times,

With privatisation of British Energy and its eight atomic power stations slated for July, the study, by an in-dependent specialist in nuclear economics, insists that the company should pay 208 million a year into the special fund set up to finance long term decommissioning of the reactors. At minimum 2127 million a year is needed.

By contrast, the Government has set annual contributo the segregated fund is cru-cial in reassuring prospective investors that long-term liabilities can be funded with-out hindering dividends and

The damning analysis of the scope and size of the seg-regated fund comes as the Government announced that British Energy employees will be eligible for free shares worth £160 plus £2 for every year of continuous service. Employees will also get two free shares for every share bought, priority allocation of shares, and a 20 per cent dis-

count on the offer price.
In a lengthy analysis of the funding needed to meet British Energy's £14.6 billion nuclear liability bill, Mike Sadnicki argues that "the extremely low estimates of British Energy fund payments give the taxpayer very little reassurance whatso-ever" that the relevant liabil-

HE taxpayer runs the serious risk of footing the bill for shutting privatisation. As such the decision could be in breach of European rules on state aid.
He also points out that other electricity generators would have "legitimate

grounds for complaint since nuclear stations would clearly not be bearing their full generation costs" Mr Sadnicki says that allowing British Energy to pay less than £127 million is "diverting cash away from future liabilities towards cur-

rent profits and dividends' Forcing British Energy to make higher contributions to the fund would cramp its profitability and worry poten-

tial investors. The Government agreed to tions at just £16 million, much the formation of a segregated fund to reassure the public mates, including one of that there would be money mates, including one of that there would be undersoonable or cleaning advising ministers on the sell-off. The scale of payments to the segregated fund is cruthat liabilities did not fall to

taxpayers by default.
Commissioned by Friends
of the Earth and the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities, Mr Sadnicki's report suggests the ministe-rial pledges were "hollow promises" and that the Government and British Energy have revised the original underlying assumptions be-

hind the fund in seven ways. The scope of the fund will exclude crucial liabilities. such as the management and disposal of intermediate and high-level wasta, the repro-cessing of the final core after the seven advanced gascooled reactors (AGRs) have closed and the defuelling of an AGR station immediately after shut-down.

Ministers have also assumed healthy investment rates for the fund, even ities will be covered.

Mr Sadnicki warns that the
Government's decision to set confident prediction.

### **Bad times still** good at Tesco

#### Outlook

Pauline Springett | per cent. Worse, the UK gross margin was down 0.2 per cent.

HE lovalty card is a success. the petrol price war could knock £30 million off this year's profits (but is not a disaster), the BSE scare has halved beef sales (but they are recovering), and a clutch of superstores are under construcfigures were quite good as

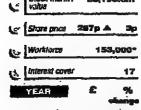
Sadly, the stock market did not share Tesco's own enthusiasm for its results yester-day. This was partly triggered by the announcement by chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin

that dividend growth would be lower than before.

Sir Ian made reassuring noises by saying that divi-dends would still be increased. He explained that the company simply wanted to spend more on UK stores and European acquisitions.

Of more serious concern to the market was the revelation

### Tesco



12 months to December, %

|120 | 10.7

that Tesco's operating margin in the UK was unchanged

equivalent to £30 million. Terry Leahy, deputy manag-ing director, said food retailing was highly competitive.
"We don't expect it to get immediately worse, and we don't expect it to get much better. Despite its apparently rosy

trading position and given the competitive environment and the apparent rise of the chesper discount food retailers, Tesco appears to face a long-term growth prob-lem. However, it has several plans of attack. It is commit-ted to greater efficiency and productivity, but insists this is not shorthand for job iosses. It added 8,500 jobs last year and expects to add a sim-

Instead, it is planning greater streamlining of computer systems plus cost cut-ting in the supply chain. It is, for example, abandoning cardboard containers and replacing them with re-use-able plastic crates. Tesco is hoping that such measures will save £100 million.

two battle fronts.

The familiar war zone is ment's efforts to clamp down on out-of-town developments. It now has 545 stores in the UK and plans to open 24 shops this year.

The company is also ex-tending its Clubcard loyalty scheme, which has now been operating for more than a year with 8 million members. It is being used to monitor their spending habits and has already sharpened up Tesco's

promotions policy.
Finally, there is Europe. The group has invested £100 million, is encouraged by the results and plans to in-crease its activity if all goes well. David Malpas, manag-ing director, said the area was high risk and that the

### Societies up stakes in takeover game

BUILDING societies around the country yesterday boosted their minimum opening balances in response to an epidemic of speculative investment since the takeover of Bristol & West by Bank of Ireland on Monday.

Birmingham Midshires increased its opening level from £100 to £1,300 at 17 of its branches. The level at the rest of its network.

was set at \$500. This follows a surge of new account openings on speculation that the society may be taken over by the Woolwich. Leeds & Holbeck, another society tipped for a takeover, raised its minimum opening balance yesterday to £1,000 while the Chelsea raised its to £2,500. — Cliff Jones

#### Insurer's profits dampener

COMMERCIAL Union, the UK's largest composite insurer, said yesterday that had weather in the UK and the US at the beginning of the year would make first-quarter profits "soggy". Poor weather in the US cost the company 512 million in January, said chief executive John Carter. He added that the first quarter figures would nevertheless show a rise in profits because of the impact of investment returns. — Pouline Springett

#### **Keeping up with Jones**

SHAREHOLDERS of BICC, the cables and construction group, voted through proposals which will give new chief executive Alan Jones a cash and shares bonus worth up to 75 per cent of his basic average salary over a three-year period. Mr Jones, who joined BICC in April last year, was paid a basic salary of 2365,630 for the eight months to the year's end — equivalent to an annual £400,775. The award will be paid half in cash and half in shares. Other executive directors and senior managers will also be eligible for bonus awards up to a maximum of half their average basic pay based on the last 24 months of the three-year period. — Tony May

### But this is not the stuff of mega profit growth. To this end Tesco has to wage war on THE Redland building materials group is to become

THE Redland building materials group is to become the largest European supplier of roofing products and services, with pro-forma sales of £1.3 billion in 1995, after a restructuring of its the UK. Here, Tesco is trying to win more business and to persuade current customers to spend more. As part of the onslaught it is building more stores despite the Government's efforts to clamp down out-of-torm developments.

#### Money back guarantee

REUTERS, the international news and information group, hopes REUTERS, the international news and mformation group, nopes to resolve the question of how to return surplus cash to shareholders by the end of the year. The company's cash pile grew to £850 million in 1995 but chief executive Peter Joh has not put a figure on how much it plans to return to shareholders. The company carried out a 350 million share buy-back in 1995. Revenue in the first quarter of 1996 rose by 14 per cent over the same overteen of 1996 to 1973 million but the group reserved that proposes. quarter of 1995 to 1713 million, but the group warned that revenue growth from information products was slowing. — Tony May

#### Hanson power play

HANSON has raised £84 million from the sale of its Eveready South Africa subsidiary to the US corporation Duracell Inc. The was high risk and that the strategy would take a while to produce returns. Tesco will two, said Eveready South Africa had sales of £64 million in the hope it does not take too long. | year to September 30, 1995. — Reute

#### UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS At only (2) ( look at what our lowest rate everand the construction of the second £9,027.36 13.8% £206.68 £9,920.64 19.9% You'll see in £19431 the table above £9,326.88 ever" compares to those of some of our competitors. £9,567.36 With Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc. you can any amount from £500 to £10,000 for absolutely any reason?. For example, buying a new car, paying off your credit cards or building a new kinchen. So why not take advantage of our attractive HAMILTON Direct Bank A district of HFG Bank pic \*<u>13.8%APR</u> on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 to £10,000. 16.9%APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £4,999. We have the money to hand. Call more to find our what your repayments could be on

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#### Racing

## Salasabil backed for another day

Nell Gwyn upset sees runner-up cut for fillies' classics. Chris Hawkins reports

HRILLING DAY, who is not entered for the 1,000 Guineas, sprung a 20-1 surprise when beating Bint Salsabil a shorthead in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmar-

ket yesterday. Classic trials are notoriously trappy and on the face of it the result merely strengthens the claims of Bosra Sham, who was cut to 11-10 favourite for the 1,000 by

But Bint Salsabil, who tried to make all the running and fought back when headed, will undoubtedly be suited by another furlong and cannot be discounted.

Ladbrokes slashed her from 25-1 to 10's for the Guineas and make her 8-1 favourite for

As she is by the Derby win-ning Nashwan out of the Oaks winner Salsabil, she should certainly be suited by a mile and a half, but one could ar-gue that as both her sire and dam also won the Guineas she gue that as both her sire and dam also won the Guineas she will have enough speed for a mile.

Speed for five furlongs. She looked very fit and this is probably as good as she is.

Henry Cecil has his string

WALTER SWINBURN has lost the battle to be

fit to partner Royal Ap-plause in the 2,000 Guineas following his life-threaten-

ing fall in Hong Kong two

Neil Graham, the trainer of Thrilling Day, had opposite worries about his filly and it was the question mark over her stamina which influenced him scatters and the for him against entering her for the Guineas. He was not even sure

whether she would get the seven furiongs and, in conse-quence, instructed David Har-rison to hold her up to get the

Thus, it was not until well inside the final furlong that she made her presence felt, suddenly finding her stride on hitting the rising ground.

Harrison started to work on her over two full contents. her over two furlongs out and as Graham said: "She needs a lot of stoking and needs to be kept interested."

David Loder received little encouragement for Blue

Duster, 7-2 second favourite for the 1,000, from the run-ning of her stable-companion Maid For The Hills, who fin-ished fifth after showing

Swinburn out of 2,000 Guineas "Tm seeing the doctor again on Friday, but the shoulder blade is still causing me problems and to be fair to Barry Hills I've told him I won'the fit to ride," said Swinburn at Newmar-ket races yesterday.

in forward condition and in forward condition and landed a double with Sherpss and Dovaly, the latter flooring the well-touted Sacho with a determined late run in the Museum Maiden Stakes.

Sacho, trained by John Goeden, had been prominently quoted for the Derby, but he is not over-impressive physically and Epsom looks a forlorn bobe on this form.

lorn hope on this form.

Pat Eddery had a great afternoon. He partnered the two Cecil winners and supplemented them with Passion For Life in the Abernant Stakes and Sanmartino in the

Swaffham Handicap to make it a 246-1 four-timer. Geoff Lewis does not rate Passion For Life in the same rassion for line m the same league as Lake Coniston, whom he sent out to win the Abernant last year, and will aim his rather lightly made but speedy gelding for a valu-able race at Baden Baden in-

stead of Royal Ascot.

Angus Gold, racing manager to Hamdan Al Maktoum, revealed that Albaarth is now almost certain to run in tomorrow's Craven Stakes rather than Saturday's Greenham Stakes at Newbury. "Dick Hern has had a look

"Dick Hern has had a look at the weather forecast and it looks like rain at Newbury on Friday," said Gold. "He is worried the ground will open when they race and it could get a little testing. On the other hand, the ground seems pretty certain to stay on the fast side at Newmarket."

But to prevent it setting But to prevent it getting

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Pipped . . . Thrilling Day (left) gets a short-head verdict over Bint Salsabil in yesterday's Nell Gwyn Stakes

#### PHOTOGRAPH FRANK BARON

### Cayman Kai can keep up the Hannon run

AYMAN KAI looks the pick of a disap-pointing field of six really firm Nick Lees, New-market's clerk of the course, had the last five furlongs of Richard Hannon has hit the Rowley Mile watered for a form early and Cayman Kai quarter of an hour last night. has been well tuned.

On the strength of that he was made favourite for the Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury, but on a softish sur-face he finished tailed off

two this season.
Tumbleweed Ridge could probably be construed as two-Year-Old Trophy. At Pontefract, Son second to Royal Applause (3.20) is an interesting

Desert Boy won the Convivial Stakes at York on firm ground when holding on by a short-head from subsequent winner Leonine.

Desert Boy won the Convivial Stakes at York on firm ground when holding on by a short-head from subsequent winner Leonine.

Desert Boy won the Convivial Stakes at York on That was too bad to be true my choice is Cayman Kai Fillies Handicap. She bolt-diders Stakes at Doncasting an animal he will surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was then a highly surely win a decent race or tar and was the respectable runner-up to Blue Iris in the Redcar

If she has genuinely improved she must take all At Pontefract, Sondos | the beating off a reasonable

### Newmarket with form for the televised events

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#### Results

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2.40 (77): 1. THEMILLEN BAY, D. Harrison (20-1); 2. Mine Statement (7-2) Provided For The Hills. 17 ran. Sh. Hd. 22. N. Straharmi Tota: C28.5: E8.20. Tric. E3.40. Dual F. C44.50. Tric. E3.20. C1.70. E3.40. Dual F. C44.50. Tric. E3.20. C1.70. E3.40. Dual F. C44.50. Tric. E3.20. C1.70. E3.40. Dual F. C44.50. E3.20. C1.70. E3.40. Dual F. C44.50. E3.40. Dual F. C4.70. E3.40. Dual F. C4.70. E3.40. Fr. Land F. C4.70. E3.40. Tric. E3.40. Dual F. C4.70. E3.40. E3.40. Tric. E3.40. E3

2 FLAN, CURRETURE CISTURES, White Project (11-0); 2, Warden Project (11-0); 2, Warden (11-0); 2, Warden Project (11-0); 3, Warden Project (11-0); 4, Warden Project (11-0); 5, Warden Project (11-0); 5, Warden Project (11-0); 6, Warden Project (11-0); 7, Warden Project (11-0); 7,

### Pontefract runners and riders

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1	151/304- SHORLA (2016) J U Need 5-10-0	S D V/Fileman 7
2	157:304 SBATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (D) (BF) W Callegran 4-8-12	S D Williams 7 J Glock (3) 6
	19739- SEART (2009) JUNEAU 2-10-0 1972-12 BATTLESHIP BRUGE (15) (D) (BF) N Calegram 4-12 507-00 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) M Broat 4-10 1972-10 CAPI TO BELLANTE (5) (T) M L. December 4-0.70	S D V/Films 7 J Stock (3) F JJ Wighon 12
3 4	1013-0- SECONDA (2003) 10 100 3-10-0 1075-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (0) (BF) W Calleghan 4-0-12 1003-0-0 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) W Broam 4-0-10 1003-0-0 CARLITO BROAMFRE (5) (0) Mrs.   Barnedon 4-0-10	S D Villiant 7
2	151:305 SECONDA (2005) 31 VISIO 3-10-0 (FSS-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (5) (3F) W Callagian 4-12 501-0 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) W Strong 4-10 5002-12 CARLITO BRIGHARTE (5) (6) (1 May 1 Brancies 4-0-0 31000- ASKIRBN (1-65) (6) O Playla Jones 5-0-10 1581 CARLITON (1-65) (1 May 1 Brancies 4-0-0 1581 CARLITON (1-65) (1 May 1 Brancies 4-0-0	S D Villiant 7  J Back (3) 5  Wighon 12  Charack 9  A College 2
2 4 5 6	101309 SEGMA, (2009) JUTHOS 3-10-9 (F25-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (0) (BF) W Calleghan 4-8-12 (001-0) MEDIA, EXPRESS (47) W British 4-9-10 (002-0) CARLITO BRIGARITE (5) (0) Mrs. J Remedia 4-0-10 (1003-0) CARLITO BRIGARITE (5) (0) D Heyds JAmes 5-8-70 (1003-0) CARLITO BRIGARITE (5) (3) C Smaj 4-0-0	S D Williams 7  J Stock (3) II  Wighous 12  K Pollon 1  L Cityracek 9  A College 2  O Revolute (2) 3
2 4 5 6 7	151:305 - SECONDA (2009) JU 1008 3-10-5 (FSS-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (D) (BF) W Callagian 4-12 501-00 MEDIA SEPRESS (47) W Bruss 4-10 5000-12 CARLITO BRINSHITE (5) (D) I Hayda Areas 5-10 10000- ASKERNI (145) (D) I Hayda Areas 5-10 1280- FORTHER TRESS (148) C SERIA 4-8-5 20-023 LECCHOTORION (8) (D) M BRI 5-4-4 20-023 LECCHOTORION (8) (D) M BRI 5-4	S D Williams 7  J Stock (3) 8  Wighon 12  K Pollon 1  L Characek 8  A College 2  Q Paullois (7) 3  Then 16
2245874	Dispus   Second Acros   University   Dispus	
111450788	151:305 SEMATILESHEP BRUCE (15) (3) (3F) W Callagean 4-8-12  1675-12 BATTLESHEP BRUCE (15) (3) (3F) W Callagean 4-8-12  1601-10 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) W Bruss 4-9-10  1000-12 CARLITO BRINGARTE (5) (0) M Hay I Bransjen 4-8-10  1000-12 BATTLESHEP (145) (3) O Playta Jones 5-9-10  1280-1904THER TRESS (148) (5 Brans 4-8-4  20-03 LOCOROTORIOO (8) (0) M BRI 5-8-6  20-03 LOCOROTORIOO (8) (0) M BRI 5-8-6  2035-20 DAKERIEV (7) Histo L Saddell 4-9-6  2035-30 DAKERIEV (7) Histo L Saddell 4-9-6  1005-4-50 DAKERIEV (7) Histo L Saddell 4-9-6	
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 6 10	151:305 SECOND, 2009 JU 1983 3-10-9  (PSS-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (5) (8F) W Calleghan 4-12  501-0 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) M Bruga 4-10  5003-02 CARLITO BRIGARITE (5) (5) (Ms. ) Remedie 4-0-10  31003- ASKRIM (148) (3) O Pleyda Arnes 5-0-70  1283-13 LICCONSTRUCT (139) C Small 4-0-4  203-13 LICCONSTRUCT (13) Mrg. J Cacil 4-0-7  203-10 CARLINOT (13) Mrg. L Saddal 4-3-8  0057-151 DANA POINT (15) T Barron 4-0-5  401-12 DANA POINT (15) T Barron 4-0-5	S D Williams 7 J Stock (3) 5 III Wigham 12 III Wigham 1 Common 1 Common 2 G Position 2 G Position (7) 3 7 hear 16 J Correct 16 J Fortune 17 G DuWind II
111450788	151:39 - SECONDA (2009) JUTHOR 3-10-9 (FES-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (2) (BF) W Calleghan 4-12 (501-0) MEDIA EXPRESS (47) M British 4-10 (502-02 CARLITO BRIGARITE (5) (D) Mrs J Remeder 4-0-10 (31000) ASMERIA (145) (D) D Hayda Jones 5-0-10 (200-05 LOCOPROTORIO (19) (D) M BRI 5-0 (200-05 LOCOPROTORIO (19) D M BRI 5-0 (200-05 LOCOPROTORIO (19) D BRITISH 5-0 (200-05 LOCOPROTORIO (19) D BRITISH 6-0 (200-05 ARCHORDENIA (19) JA HARTIS 4-0	
2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	151:305 SECONDAY (2009) JUT 1083 3-10-5 [PES-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE (15) (D) (BF) W Calleghan 4-12 [SDI1-0] MEDIA EXPRESS (47) M Bruss 4-1-10 [DDI2-02 CARLITO BRINARITE (6) (D) [May J. Barnedge 4-0-10 [SDI2-03 LOCOBOTORISO (16) (D) M Bell 5-4-4 [SDI-03 LOCOBOTORISO (16) (D) M Bell 5-4-4 [SDI-03 LOCOBOTORISO (16) (D) M Bell 5-4-7 [SDI-03 LOCOBOTORISO (16) (D) M Bell 5-4-7 [SDI-04 DANA POINT (13) M p Jacil 4-5-7 [SDI-04 DANA POINT (15) T Barron 4-6-5 [SDI-04 DANA POINT (15) T Barron 4-6-5 [SDI-04 DANA POINT (15) T Barron 4-6-5 [SDI-04 DANA POINT (18) JA Herris 4-6-7	S D Williams 7 J Block (2) II J Block (2) II J Wigham 12 K Pallon 1 L Clearasek 8 A Culture 8 A Culture 16 J Proclams (7) 3 T New 16 J Carrell 16 J Forthers 17 O Dufffeld II J F Egan 10 C Teason (6) 4 C Teason (6)
2 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 14 14	151-30	S D Williams 7 J Block (2) 8 J Block (2) 8 J Block (2) 8 K Fellon 1 L Clarrock 9 A Cultices (2) 3 J hear 16 J Carrell 16 J Fortune 17 G D F Sgan 13tr C Tougne (3) 4 K Deteg 10
2 4 5 6 7 6 9 10 11 12 14 15	151:305 SEMATILESHIP BRUCE (15) (3) (3F) W Callaghan 44-12  501-00 MEDIA, SEPRESE (47) W British 45-10  500-10 MEDIA, SEPRESE (47) W British 45-10  510:005-42 CARLITO BRINGARTE (5) (3) U British Armes 5-10  100:00-10 MEDIA (145) (3) U Bright Armes 5-10  100:00-10 MEDIA (145) (3) U Bright Armes 5-10  200-10 LEOURITORNO (5) (0) M BRIS 5-4  200-10 DANGERY (7) Mine L Stockel 4-5-5  005/1-6 DANGERY (7) Mine L STOCKEL 4-5-7  005/1-6 DANGERY (7) Mine L STOCKEL 5-5-7  005/1-6 DANGERY (7) Mine L STOCKEL 5-5-7	S D Williams 7 J Buch (2) # J Buch (2) # J Wigham 12 K Palan 1 L Charmonk 8 A Callines 2 G Freelines (7) 3 7 loss 16 J Carroll (6) J Fortune 17 O Dulyjal B J F Egan 13/4 C Teagan (3) 4 J Derby 10 J Bitticknem 18
2 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 14 15 14	1913-9 SECONDA (2009) JU 1918-1-10-1  1973-1 SALTILISHIP BRUCE (15) (3) (3F) W Calleghan 4-12  1901-10 MEDIA EXPRESS (47) W Bridge 4-1-10  1903-10 CARLITO BRIDGARTE (5) (5) (May 1 Remedies 4-0-10  1900-10 LICCONDTOWN (140) C Small 4-0-10  1900-10 LICCONDTOWN (140) May J Cacil 4-0-7  203-10 CARLITHON (140) May J Cacil 4-0-7  203-10 CARLITY (7) May J Cacil 4-0-7  203-10 CARLITY (7) May J Cacil 4-0-7  203-10 CARLITY (7) May J Cacil 4-0-7  00571-54 DANA POWE (15) TRETON 4-0-5  40-12 DEPOMENTATION (5) Belling 4-0-3  00502 ANCHOREMA (15) JA Herris 4-0-2  1440-2 CLEMINELL MEDIA (140) (15) A Streets 6-0-2  1420-2 CLEMINELL MEDIA (140) (15) A Remediy 1-0-0  0250-0 CHETELACS (27) (10) May M Remediy 4-0-0  5020-0 PLYAMAY BLUES (6) May M Remediy 4-0-0	S D Williams 7 J Block (2) II II Wigham 12 K Fellon 1 K Fellon 1 Controvel 9 A College (7) 3 T New 15 J Carrell 16-i J Fortune 17 O Dufffeld IS J F Rigan 12-v C Tougne (6) 4 K Device 10 D McKoown 18 D O'Span 14
2 4 5 6 7 8 10 71 12 12 14 15 16 17	Component	
2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 17 18	151:30-54004, 2009 JU 1983-10-9 [FS-12 BATTLESHIP BRUCE [15] (5) (8F) W Callegian 4-12 [501-0] MEDIA EXPRESS (47) M Bruna 4-10 [502-02 CARLITO BRINARITE (5) (5) Mrs. J Ramades 4-9-10 [31000- ASIGEMI (145) (9) D Playda Jones 5-9-70 [283-FROTTHEN TRESS (149) C Stend 4-8-6 [29-05] LOCONOTORISO (6) (8) M Bell 5-4-4 [29-05] LOCONOTORISO (6) (8) M Bell 5-4-4 [29-05] OAKSHIPK (7) Mrs. J Cacil 4-9-7 [203-05] OAKSHIPK (7) Mrs. LOCONOTORISO (6) Playda 4-8-6 [205-1-54] DAMA POINT (15) T Barron 4-8-5 [205-05] ARCHORISIA (18) JA Herris 4-8-2 [205-05] CARLITELACS (27) (0) Mrs. M Reveloy 5-8-9 [205-05] CARLITELACS (27) (0) Mr	S D Williams 7 J Buch (2) II II Wigham 12 K Palan 1 L Characek 6 A Chilacea 2 O Poulham (7) 3 Then 15 J Carcell 16 J Fortune 17 O Duffsel 5 J F Egan 13 E Tourne 19 Diffsel 5 Diffsel 6 Di
2 4 5 6 7 8 10 71 12 12 14 15 16 17	151:30- SECONDA (2009) JU 1988 3-10-9 [PS2-12 BATTLESHIP BRIDGE (15) (25) (3F) N Callaghan 4-9-12 [DD1-0] MEDIA, EXPRESS (47) M Britain 4-9-10 [DD2-0 ASSIGNA (1483) (2) D Hayda Janes 5-9-70 [280-1905] LECOROTORIOD (19) (20) M Bril 5-9-8 [290-03] LECOROTORIOD (19) (20) M Bril 5-9-8 [290-03] LECOROTORIOD (19) (20) M Bril 5-9-8 [290-03] LECOROTORIOD (19) (20) M Bril 5-9-8 [203-10] DANKBURY (7) Mins L Saddell 4-9-8 [203-10] DANKBURY (10) Mins M Reveloy 1-9-9 [203-10] DANKBURY (10) (10) M Reputs (10) (10) M REVELOY 1-9-9 [203-10] DANKBURY (10) (10) M Reputs (10) (10) M REVELOY 1-9-9 [203-10] DANKBURY (10) (10) M Reputs (10) (10) M REVELOY 1-9-9 [203-10] DANKBURY (10) (10) M REVELOY 1-9 [203-10] DANKBUR	S D Williams 7 J Block (2) 8 Ill Wighess 12 In Freiten 1 In Charmoni 9 A Cultines (2) 3 Theor 16 J Carrell 16 J Fortune 17 O Duffyield 8 J Fagen 13th Carrell 16 J Duffyield 8 J Fagen (3) 4 X Detay 10 D Blockcown 18 D O'Steen 14 D Biggen 64 Onle Silvers 19 J Blockcown 19 D Do'Steen 14 D Biggen 64 Onle Silvers 19
2 3 4 5 8 7 8 90 10 11 12 14 15 17 18 19	52274-3 CHILLY LAD (18) (D) M Ryan 5-8-11 01346- OUR MARM MAIN (1985) (CD) R Whosker 6-8-11 31365-5 SPITFING BRIDGE (21) (D) M McCompet 4-8-8	S D Williams 7 J Back (2) II II Wigham 12 K Palan 1 L Clarmoni 5 A Chilenes 2 O Poulham (7) 3 T hear 16 J Carrell 16 J Fortune 17 O Dufffall 6 J Fortune 17 C Duffyall 8 J F Rgan 13 K Derivy 10 D Bickcome 18 D O'Stan 14 D Bigan 64 Oak Gibnan 19 JI Brok 11
2 4 5 6 7 6 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 16 17 17 16 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	52227-3 CHILLY LAD (18) (6) M Ryan 5-9-11  01345 - OUR MARK MAN (198) (00) R Whiteler 5-9-11  1186-5 SPRIFFES BROOKS (21) (0) M McCompet 4-5-8  CREST TIPS: Collision's B, Segala 7, Betfieskip Brece 8	
2 2 4 5 8 7 8 9 10 11 12 12 14 15 16 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	5222-13 CHILLY LAD (18) (3) M Ryen 5-8-11 011345 OUR MARE MARK (1985) (CD) R Whiting 6-8-11 1186-5 SPHTPERS BROOKS (2+1) (D) M McCormect 4-8-8 07881 Tiple Collimont B, Segath 7, Buttleship Brace 8 oz 4-1 Carlino Brisante, 5-1 Locordondo, 11-2 Denomination, 6-1 Cullino	
2 2 4 5 8 7 8 9 10 11 12 12 14 15 16 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	52227-3 CHILLY LAD (18) (6) M Ryan 5-9-11  01345 - OUR MARK MAN (198) (00) R Whiteler 5-9-11  1186-5 SPRIFFES BROOKS (21) (0) M McCompet 4-5-8  CREST TIPS: Collision's B, Segala 7, Betfieskip Brece 8	
2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 18 18 17 18 18 17 18 18 18 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	52227-3 CHILLY LAD (18) (2) M Ryen 5-6-11 01136- OUR MARK MAIN (198) (CDS R Whiteler 6-6-11 01186-5 SPRIFERS BRIDGE (R1) (D) M McCormack 4-8-9 0481 Tiple Collisions R, Segala 7, Battleship Brace 8 gr 4-1 Carito Brigante, 5-1 Locorstonde, 11-2 Denomination, 6-1 Cullino, 19-1 Battleship Brace, 19-1 Cullino	Distance 19 Distan
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20 Trying Aguin 85 Seasonel Spieredour 30 Holland House	4.00 Hope And Po	ips.
55 Seasonel Spiendour	4.35 Medints Sun	n Song
30 Holland House	5.10 Tallicherry	
.20 ERVESTRALITE HOVICE CH	AREA MARKET	
	DD D Gendatio 6-11-11	
2 - 0-U1232 AME SHOT (34) D Nicht	28an 8-11-7	
3 139.0-41 MV WIZARD (98) .   Ge	ford 9-31-7	- P Hide
4 P-10586 YOTHEWOODS (36) N	Twiston-Davies 8-11-7	
S PS-P63 BUZZ O'THE CROWD	(7) Mrs C Handel 9-31-1	
<ul> <li>29-PUF CHIM ARCTIC (18) Mn</li> <li>PV/FOR- RUSHPROBE (404) P R</li> <li>Atlanta 4-6 Trying Again, 2-1 Air Skot,</li> </ul>	A PRES 9-10-10	Q Hogan (2) *
others 4-6 Trying Acass, 2-1 Air Shot,	7-1 My Wizard, 18-1 Tothemoods, 25	-1 Buzz O'the Crowd, 2
on Arctic, Restaure.		7 mane
.55 WEATHERSY'S MOVICE HUR	DLS 2m 1f 62,956	
1 1-58215 AROUND THE GALE (	19) (D) (BP) D Gendolio 5-11-5	M Dayer
25-1922 GABOLO (14) (NJ) C E	Hanis 6-11-5	
2 41 NEADWIND (27) J GH 4 2-2015 LOND SIGNORSOUGH	tard 5-11-6	P Hilds
6 212P45 TIGHT PST (41) (00) N	Des H Kalant 6-11-5	MA Fiberali
6 2301 YOUNGTTERNELLEVE	T (7) C Breeks 7-11-5	A P MoCow
7 0 MANCHIAND (SA) P	Ritchens 7-11-0	A Tory
5 DE CONKERDOR (14) H B	uckler 5-11-0	R Grame
6 DANNECUS N Benbage G D #DMN RDC (#1) B De I	6-17-0	R Dummody
1 0 PRED JESTRICY (E4) /	Terred 5-11-0	68-00
2 2-030 DOVIERHOR DARREL C	20 J O'SAm 5-11-0	N Brancos (7)
2 NEPREVS PORT Macron	Masde 6-11-0	J Relitin
4 P LIMITANAN (84) O !	Shorwood 6-17-0	J & MoCorthy
N (24 MILLERSFORD (27) N	Gasalee 5-11-0	
8 4 DATS ALDET (28) T Fo 7 20 PHINERHOOS PLACE (1	Period 5-11-0	5 Wyene
B D RESENG MAR (44) A Je	tvis 5-17-0	A FTRAME
9 ROLLCALL R Alear 6-1	1-0	E Mallall
SS-154 SEASONAL SPLIDEDO	1-0 UR (60) (D) M Pipe 6-11-0	D Bridgester
1 Q-Q515 SUPPREME WORKAN (S	7) J Picksripg 6-11-0	T Description (i
2 8 YOUNG TYCOOK (124	A J Wisco 5-11-0,	LHerry
38-004 HALORA (48) S Circle	ap 6-10-9	
CAPE COLONY J C'Sh 5 SP LITTLE SHEFFORD (2) ping: §-1 Garolo, ?-1 Arqued The Cal	# 4-10-0	(6)
ather 2.1 Gerale 2.1 Amust The Gal	o E.1 Martintol Common Colomba	TO_1 Workellandschafte
omigra-i Gardio, i-i Arbusa ino Gall 1 Tight Fiel.	of the configuration of the second	25 mars

-	notes hillulars. Gelley: (Lood to suft as in brackets after horse's name dansets slays alson intest 16.14, unting	
4.0	O LYNK EXPRESS HANDICAP HURBLE 2m SF 110yes C5,457	
1	110-00P ALLEBATION (20) (0) M Pine 8-12-0 45017 HOPS AUD POPS (8) (25) eq. (6) (0) F Almer 9-11-10 4-07631 ELM SUBFIER (24) (0) Capt T Forsize 6-11-6 1125P FATHER SKY (18) (05) O Sherwood 5-11-0 23-032 POREST FRATHER (8) (0) C Trookin 8-10-12 32-032 POREST FRATHER (8) (0) C Trookin 8-10-12 32-032 POREST FRATHER (8) (10) C Bookin 8-10-12 32-032 POREST FRATHER (9) (10) C Bookin 8-10-12 32-032 POREST FRATHER (9) (10) C Bookin 8-10-12	D Scidgester #
3	45F(UT HOPS AND POPS (8) (586 ec) (G) (D) R Alter 9-11-10	Hr P Healey (#)
3	4-0P631 SUM SURFER (21) (0) Cept T Forster 8-11-8	S Wyster
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TOP FORM TIPS: Old blab B. Kees Albanes 7, Doctor Green \$

Blinkered for the first time: PONTEFRACT: 4.25 Absolute Ruler, My Hands
 5.30 Oakhury.

## **England gamble on Operation Shearer**

LAN SHEARER'S chances of becoming a major influence in the European Cham-

Tonight Shearer will play his final match of the season for Blackburn when Wimble-don visit Ewood Park, Tomorrow he is due to undergo an operation on the groin injury that forced him out of the England side for last month's friendly against Bulgaria.

Liverpool's Stan Collymore whose international career amounts to two brief appearances in last summer's Umbro Cup, has replaced Shearer in the squad for the game with Croatia at Wembley a week today. But Les Ferdi-



nand, who scored the winner his England place. He may against Bulgaria, is likely to still be Venables's first choice keep his place alongside Teddy Sheringham, whose pass set up the goal.

Venables expects Shearer to be out of action for at least pionship now depend on a surgeon's skill, the speed of will mean the player missing the player's recovery, and, not only the Croatia match but also the friendly against who will replace him in Terry Hungary on May 18. There is Venables's England attack in just a chance that Shearer the remaining warm-up will be fit for the England tour to China and Hong Kong

> confident that his leading though internationally barren, striker will be fit in time for the opening European Championship match against Switzerland on June 8. "In Alan's last three games the groin has got progressively worse," Venables said yesterday. "But both the specialist and his club think he'll be ready for Euro '96. It's in everyone's interest for him to have the operation now."

Shearer confirmed: "My specialist is confident that, by doing what I am now, I will be fit for Euro '96 and possibly the tour to China."

Ever the optimist, Venables cited Gascoigne's experience with a similar groin-cum-abdominal operation between he quarter- and semi-finals of the FA Cup in 1991. Gascoigne underwent surgery the day after scoring the winning goal against Notts County and returned five weeks later to destroy Arsenal's defence at Wembley, Against that, Dar-ren Anderton has only just resumed playing for Tottenham's first team after a sevenmonth absence following a groin operation last autumn Shearer has more than one

and if he scores this evening he will have totalled 30 Premiership goals for the third successive season. But he has not found the net for England in nine internationals, a fam-ine stretching back to the pair he scored against the United

States in 1994. Shearer's enforced absence. therefore, can only be good news for both Ferdinand and the prolific Liverpool partner-ship of Collymore and Robbie Fowler, who all still have time to impress Venables be-fore the start of the European Championship.
If the further absence of

Shearer enables Venables to continue exploring attacking options, the loss of Gareth Southgate and Steve Howey, in addition to Tony Adams and Gary Pallister, re-empha-sises the thinness of choice at the back. With Tottenham's versatile Sol Campbell join-ing Aston Villa's Ugo Ehiogu in the squad, the chances of at least one new cap appearing at centre-back are high.

Venables has also brought in Blackburn's uncapped Jason Wilcox as cover for Steve McManaman on the left. Wilcox, with one England B appearance behind him, has only recently resumed playing after rupturing cruciate knee ligaments just over a year ago.



Double whammy . . . Alan Shearer faces Wimbledon tonight, the surgeon's knife tomorrow

# First Division: Sunderland 3, Birmingham 0

## Sunderland on the brink

Michael Walker

NE LAST heave and playing Premiership after this emphatic win at Roker Park last night. Promotion is assured unless Crystal Palace win all their remaining games and Sunderland lose all theirs.

Since this victory saw the

Wearsiders equal a 73-year-old record of 16 consecutive unbesten matches, such a de-bacle seems extremely unlikely. The editorial in yesterday's Sunderland Echo may have called promotion "the word that dares not speak its name" but it will surely be on many north-eastern lips today. Peter Reid's side margin-

ally had the better of things in a fast, entertaining opening. Breen, the leggy City captain. did his best to repel them but neither he nor his giant Dutch goalkeeper Griemink could do anything in the 17th minute, when Gray let rip from 30 yards and the ball flew into the corner.

Gray had been supplied by Stewart, the free transfer from Liverpool, and he was repaid three minutes later when he rose to Scott's freekick and put Sunderland two up with a firm header.

Stewart's critics have never questioned his heading ability but have voiced concerns about his footwork. They were soon were given further ammunition when he misser a gaping net from four yards

a gaping her in the form after a scorching run down the left by the Gray.

So instead of being 3-0 up and cruising. Sunderland found themselves having to cope with some lively counter-attacks from Bir-mingham, and had a kindly ricochet fallen to a more composed player than Grainser the Blues would have reduced

their arrears before half-time. He blasted woefully wide and Barry Fry's response was to bring on three attackers immediately after the break. One of those, Francis, sent touch but Kubicki nipped in to send the ball for a corner from which Peschisolido, another substitute, headed nar-rowly over.

That was costly as Russell soon afterwards calmly side footed Sunderland's third goal past Griemink. Again the pass came from Stewart, who may have clinched a contract in the big 10 with his labours.

Watford 4, Reading 2

the safety zone — now precar-iously occupied by last

night's opponents Reading -

to seven points. Not that the general man-

ager is in any way to blame for his old club's predica-ment. They were already bot-tom when he returned in Feb-

enough to stave off relegation. Watford began impres-

sively, drivin

Mark Redding

### White at double

Patrick Glenn

UNCAN FERGUSON. the Everton striker, may be ruled out of the European Championship finals as early as this afternoon. The Scotland player will have a troublesome groin injury examined by a specialist today and if surgery is required he will be dropped from Craig Brown's 21-man Scotland A squad for the Scots' double-header in

manager, said that tomorrow morning would be the best specialist." Brown said last night. Ferguson was a starter in last night's Merseyside derby against Liverpool and exception of Celtic's injured the injury could be expected midfielder Phil O'Donnell, his

may provide a stimu-lus for both club and

comeback for Manchester

United in tonight's Pre-

miership game with Leeds

The England central de-

fender had been struck

down by a back injury, playing five times since No-

vember and missing Unit-

ed's last nine matches. But

he has been training well

and with United pursuing the Double, and the Euro-

pean Championship fast ap-

proaching, he will be eager to test his fitness in match

country by making his him in training and he is

"If he needs an operation any time between now and Euro '96 we'll have to forget him," said Brown. "That kind of procedure usually requires at least six weeks of

The Scotland manager was at Goodison Park last night. not only in the hope of seeing Ferguson but also to assess a most of this number of players likely to be the B team. involved with England, whom the Scots meet at Wembley on June 15.

Brown named 41 players yesterday, including the B squad for the match against Denmark on Tuesday. The full international is the following night and Brown insisted that, with the possible to show most clearly on the final 21 or 22 players for the

Pallister comeback hope

certainly one to consider.'

United, three points ahead of Newcastle having played

one game more, go into the Leeds match without their midfielder Nicky Butt, who

starts a two-match ban. But Phil Neville is available

after missing two games

Southampton's manager

Dave Merrington may be able to call on his central

defender Richard Hall, who

has had calf trouble, to

strengthen his squad at

with injury.

ction. Newcastle. But there are the red cold United's manager Alex still doubts about Barry on May 11.

ARY PALLISTER Ferguson said: "I will give Venison, who has been suf-may provide a stimu-Gary every chance. He has fering from back problems

done everything asked of in recent weeks.

morning after the exertions of | championship would come

The loss of Ferguson will not help Brown's search for a recognised first-choice attack. John Spencer, the Chelsea forward, appears to have replaced Aberdeen's Scott Booth as first choice and will start the A international in Copenhagen. Booth, who has been injured and off form most of this season, will be in

"I saw Spencer against terrific," said Brown.

(Everton), Gallacher (Blackburn), Gennelli (Notim Forsel), Goraus (Rangers), Headister (Ledis), McCall (Rangers), McColet (Rangers), McClieumie (Aberdeen), T McClieum) (Cellic), W McKinley (Blackburn), McLaren (Rangers), McStry (Cellic) Spancer (Chipses).

fering from back problems

Coventry, seeking a win that would take them out of

the relegation zone, go to Nottingham Forest without

almost an entire defence,

including Busst, (fractured leg), Shaw (broken jaw).

and Rennie (ankle liga-ments), and Burrows and

Borrows are also out.

In the FA Cup final Man-

chester United have been

spared any further embarrassment over change kit

because they have won the

toss of a coin with Liver-

pool for the right to wear the red colours at Wembley

### Scots fear for Ferguson All agog on the Tyne with tensions at breaking point

Michael Walker on another emotional night for the one-team city of Newcastle

T IS easy to tell just how on Sunday, said he was not nuch football matters to surprised something like that had happened. "Everyone seemed unusually upright belaces in Britain, like Glasfore the game." he said. "You the people of Tyneside, because it is one of the few places in Britain, like Glasgow, Liverpool and Manches ter, where everyday conversations are more often about the game than the ubiquitous

is partly explained by the fact. that, unlike the other three centres, Newcastle is a onefrom St James' Park, and that

Walssill (1) 1 Lightbourne 34

Keith Gillespie, Steve

don't mind how you get in the team as long as you get in, but [mine] was still a strange way to have to go into the game." Newcastle trained in front of the usual few thousand at their Durham headquarters yesterday and Beresford was back in the first-team fold. but Faustino Asprilla and Les Ferdinand, though not doubtful for tonight's game, were missing from the 16-man kickabout because of minor

knocks from Sunday. Ferdinand revealed that he had been physically sick be-fore the Aston VIIIa game and again at half-time. Not from nerves, though. "Just a bug," he said. But he did allude to the Beresford incident when he added: "At the moment tensions are running high, everyone's feelings are high. The crowd are getting a bit edgy, and with the last three results they've got every reason.

The assistant manager Terry McDermott, however, chose to emphasise that Manchester United's players must be experiencing similar thoughts. "We've got a lot of agog on the Tyne.

players who haven't been in this situation; so have Man-chester United. It's going to be new to them. It's nice to have the likes of David Batty and Peter Beardsley who have been there and done it

Howey and Paul Kitson are still out of contention and McDermott would make no comment on Beresford's chances of regaining his place. One thing is certain, the whole squad will be at St James' Park tonight; none of this Southampton game as Ferdinand watched Saturday's encounter at The Dell.

I was at home, my dad had come up for the weekend and

funnily enough he said to me: I wonder how Queens Park Rangers are getting on.' So he flicked on the text and Man United and Southampton came up. It was 2-0 to Southampton. His mouth was open, he looked at the time and said: There's only 20-25 min-utes gone'. Then he looked at it again and I said I was not going to look any more. He said: 'Well, you want to come and look at this. It's 3-0'." Such a result for Newcastle

tonight would clearly make Old Trafford even more jumpy, though there is every chance the whole Geordic population would swoon: hecause, at the minute, they are

hle with both sides employing a fashionable if flimsy threeat-the-back formation, and in ASTER is now but a dis-tant memory and rejotc-ing over the resurrecthe 37th minute Watford's 18 year-old Connolly obliged with a deft low strike from tion of the Messiah long

Ramage's through-bail.

Watford may be all but doomed but this was a match forgotten. The second coming of Graham Taylor has yet to provide the miracle needed to save Watford from the drop though this confident win reduced their distance from the confident win reduced their distance from Reading could ill afford to lose. With their fellow strug-glers Oldham and Tranmere playing tonight, the Royals are still in danger of an August kick-off in the division from which Mark McGhee hoisted them as champions in 1994.

Whether it was the halftime team talk or the sight of Mikhailov's wig, Reading's spirits lifted after the interval ruary and their record under him — won 3, drawn 7, lost 4 is not too bad a ratio over an entire season but, with just four games now left, is Watford dug in, fought back unlikely to be dramatic and White duly sealed the points with a last-gasp shot from the edge of the area.

Kamage underlined purpose, and deservedly comprehensive nature of the scored in the ninth minute.

Mooney played in Ramage cross to the far post in injury who skipped past the Polish international Wdowczyk on some consolation with a powthe left of the penalty area, erful header.

the left of the penalty area, crossed low and Devon White watterd: Miller: Bazeley. Barnes awkwardly side-footed the goal. It was the giant striker's third goal for Watford Since joining from Notts County.

More goals seemed inevits
The left of the penalty area, crossed low and between the penalty area, cludden, pomin, liested. Bazeley. Barnes (Ludden, pomin, Paramage, Mooney, Connotly Morales, 68).

Reserves B Knight (Orpington).

#### Waddle on the move again

year contract with Sheffield Wednesday and is available naxt month for £250,000.

"It was made clear that I am no longer regarded as a regular in the team," said the asyear-old former England started for Wednesday at Actor Vills on March 6.

CHRIS WADDLE has Wednesday's manager David Fleat. "I want to be either year contract with Sheffield playing regularly or doing a

winger after talks with Aston Villa on March 6.

#### Sport in brief \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Aston Villa

Blom. City

Blackburr

Brentford

Chelsea

Everton

Coventry City

Derby County

Hudd. Town

Bolton

Newcastle's manager Rob Andrew yesterday signed three more players, taking his total to 15 and his season's spending to around £750,000.

21-year-old England secondrow forward Garath Archer. West Hartiepool's England A centre Andrew Blyth and the Auckland hooker Ross Nesdale, an All Black reserve.

Snooker

Teamtalk

The Independent News and Reports Service

Call 0891 33 77+

06 Ipswich Town

11 Leeds United

34 Leicester City

21 Liverpool

36 Man\_ City

24 Man. United

17 Newcastle Utd

28 Norwich City

Peter Ebdon, warming up for the Embassy World Champt-The newcomers are Bristol's onship which begins this

19 Sheffield United

03 Sheffield Wed.

35 Southhampton

01 Tottenham Hot.

Wimbledon

04 Stoke City

02 Sunderland

23 West Hom

16 Wolves

18 Celtic

weekend, scored two 147 maximum breaks during an exhi-bition match in Eastbourne Kirk. He was given a four-minute standing ovation. Only one other player, Jimmy White, has compiled two max-imums in one public session.

Sailing

Second and 10th places were good enough for Robert Scheidt of Brazil to hold off Britain's Ben Ainslie and retain his title on the final day of the BP laser world championship at Simons' Town, South Africa, writes Bob Fisher. Britain's 19-yearold Olympic representative, still smarting from a disqualification the previous day be-cause his clothing was 200 grams too heavy, took 15th and 11th places to be third overall. His fellow Briton lain Percy, ninth and fifth on the last day, finished fifth.

Chess

27

07

37

98

Garry Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov regain the top two places in the newly issued International Chess Federation world rankings, writes Leonard Barden, Vladimir Kramnik, the 20-year-old Russian who topped the previous list, drops to third. Britain's leading pair both improve, Nigel Short to eighth, Michael Adams to 14th.

National Lottery. Football passion there often team city. There is no rival club to take the focus away is why it will be heaving with emotion again tonight for the

visit of Southampton.
For 70 years, while the club
was the embodiment of mediocre underachievement, the levels of pressure and expec-tancy were reasonably easy to deal with. But now that there is a side in black and white with the possibility of winning the league title, pressure has multiplied. Suddenly everyone has stopped talking about football and begun muttering anxiously about "the

Robbie Elliott, the 22-yearold Newcastle defender who came on for John Beresford after his "madness" outburst at the manager Kevin Keegan

Results

Second Division

Chesterfield (0) 1 Lormor 51

Third Division

Cambridge (0) 2 Beall 53, 66 2,531

Manafield (1) 2 Society 13 (psn) Williams 75

**Premier Division** 

Partick (1) 1 McWilliams 10

U Sutton Utd O.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Midderminoter 1; Kettering 1, Stevenage 2, Northwich 1, Macclesfield 2, Runoom 0, Stalybridge 1, Southport 1, Morebambe 1: Woking 2, Famitorough 1
ICIS LEAGUES Promiter Divisions Hayes
15 Sutton 18th 0

U Sulton Utd 0.

BEAZER HORRS LEAGUE: Presider
Dhitsloss Crawley Tn 1. Merthyr D.
Gravesend 8 N 4. Newport AFC 0; Rustiden 8 D monds 2, Gresley Rvrs 1: Surbury
Ta 3 VS Rugby 2.

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE First Division

Soccer

OPR 3. Colsies 1.
LEAGUE OF WALES Conneh's Cusy 1.
Sengor C.; Ebbe Vale 9, Berry 7n 1; Film
7n 3, Caemarton 7s 2 biter Cardiff 2.
Cembran 2; Liansanffraid 4, Caerswe 1.
HRISH CHP: Sensi-final replays Glentoran
2. Crussaders 1. Rugby Union

HENERGEN KATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Liandii 39, Aberavon 0, Second Division: Temby Utd 5, Durvant 38. CLURE Cremin 10, Cross Keys 45, SUPER 12: Walkato 22, Otago 8.

Rugby League NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE First Division: Thombill 30, Moldgree

Tennis

Tennis

Japan Counts Marc. First rounds T Search Counts (Japan) by N Kulti (Swo) 6-3, 6-1; 5 Metaudos (Japan) by C Carati (10) 6-1, 7-4; R Receivery (US) b) 8 Black (Zm) 6-3, 6-1; 6-4. Western (Japan) bit C Carati (10) 6-1, 6-4. Western (Japan) by Tang Min (Hi) 6-1, 6-4; K Date (Japan) by Tang Min (Hi) 6-1, 6-4; K Date (Japan) by Tang Min (Hi) 6-1, 6-4; K Date (Japan) by Tang Min (Hi) 6-1, 6-4; K Date (Japan) by Tang Min (Hi) 6-1, 6-4; K Date (Japan) by Tang Min (Hi) 6-1, 6-1, 6-1. Separation (Swo) by February (Swo) by P Banr (Geo) 6-1, 6-1, 4 Connecting (Swo) by P Banr (Geo) 6-1, 6-1, 4 Connecting (Swo) by P Banr (Geo) 6-1, 6-1, 4 Connecting (Swo) by P Banr (Geo) 6-1, 6-1, 4 Connecting (Japan) by Tang (Japan) by J Shillenberg (Japan) by J Shillenberg (Japan) by J Parassa (Jara) by J Charpeniller (Japan) by J Shillenberg (Japan) by J Parassa (Jara) by M Charpeniller (Japan) by J Parassa (Jara) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, B Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3, 6-3, 8-3, 8-2, M Receiver (Japan) by M Charpeniller (Japan) 6-3,

D Half (Eng) bt P Jacist (Fin) 15-12, 15-9; 22
Ziehn (Pol) bt B Flockhart (Ecol) 9-15,
15-11, 15-10, J Olsman (Swe) bt G Lawis
(Walsa) 15-2, 15-3; C Hamphere (Eng) bt
G Robertson (Scot) 15-5, 15-6; P Missonkes
(Eng) bt M Aydogmas (Fun) 15-0, 15-3; W
Instore (Rus) bt D O'Halloren (Ire) 15-4,
15-6; R Vengham (Walsa) bt P Postsuca
(Rom) 15-10, 15-5; O Ponsprate (Ger) bt B
Topping (Ire) 15-0, 15-2
Wornsum First reserver K Morgana (Walsa)
bt E Nielson (Ice) 11-1, 11-1; T Generae
(Eng) bt C O'Sullivan (Ire) 11-1, 11-4; J
Managarielge (Eng) bt K Rudott (Pol) 11-2,
11-2; d Marsin (Scot) bt N Groven-Burke
(Walsa) 11-4, 11-5; A Massiby (Eng) bt D
Srollismova (Bul) 11-1, 11-0.

Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE Cleveland 8, Section 0: Toronio 8, Detroit 2: Chicago 11, Kansas C 10; Celdand 8, Texas 3; Seattle 11, California 10.
NATIONAL LEAGUE Circinnali 3, Chi-

Basketball NBAs Mismi 110, New Jersey 90; NY 125, Toronio 79; Seattle 112, Housign, 108; Indi-ana 90, Charlotte 87; Sacramento 90, Den-ver 88; Portland 121, San Angonio 97. Bowis

ENGLISH REPU'S REDOOR CHARRYON-SHIPS (Métion Moversy): Tripleast Gene-ter-divales Ipsaich (A Wyet) bt Boomin (5 Lare) 27–20 (nee): Walthelmights (5 Steesy) in Section (8 Hober) 19–12: Stem-ley (1 Learnan) bt Teighbrings (1 Whitch-hate) 15–17; Stedingsen Court (8 Thomas) bt HuddersReid (A Attinson) 25–11. Sami-fimate: Whitehmighte bt Ipswich 18–17; Steeley bt Erdingson Court 21–11.

AMBER TOURNALISMT (Monteol:
Round & leaders V Kramnik (Rus) 7%; V
Amend (Ind) 6: V Penchuk (Ulri, J Polgar
(Pkn) 5:
PRINE WORLD RAMICIMOSE 1, G Passarov
(Rus) 2781; 2, A Karpov (Rus) 2770; 3,
Kramnik 2761; 4, Ivanchuk 2741; 8, N Short
(Eng) 2884; 11. Polgar 2674; 14. M Adams
(Eng) 2567.

Cricket

Badminton

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONEMPS [HernIng. Den): Selected: Nerc First round, if the Mark It of the Parks (C2) 15-4, 15-1; L.

Lindeiof (Fin) bt P Bush (Eng) 15-4, 15-6; 1

City Control of the Parks (C2) 15-4, 15-6; 1

City Control of the Parks (C2) 15-6, 15-1; L.

City Control of the Parks (C2) 15-4, 15-6; 1

City Control of the Parks (C2) 15-6, 15-1; L.

City Control of the Parks (C2) 15-6, 15-1; L.

City Control of the Parks (C3) 15-6, 15-1; L.

City Control of the Parks (C3) 15-6, 15-1; L.

City Control of the Parks (C3) 15-6, 15-1; L.

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City Control of the Parks (C3) 15-6, 15-1; L.

City Control of the Parks (C3) 15-1; L.

City Control of

ice Hockey

**Fixtures** 

Fricately V Guissley, First, Orleanes Attation To v Notherfield; Farsiey Galte v Attaeron LR.

CER LEAGUE: Premier bivisions Harrow
Bor v Handon; Molessey v Carstaulton,
First Bivisions Ablangton To v Tooling &
Mitcham Ltd. Thaird Divisions: League
Hornchunch;
BEAZER HOMBS LEAGUE: Midland
Divisions Corby To v Badworth Unit,
Seetfreen Divisions Cinderlord To v Fareham To. Dr Markens Cup: Final, first legs
Baldock To v Nuneabon Bor.
N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Divlinous Prescot v Majone Rd,
FEDDRIATION BRUWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Divisions Crook To Vuham C; Eppleton CW v Conset; Ferryhlli
Alb v HTM Nowcastie; Whichtern v Bil.
lingham Syn.

Ath v NTM Newcestle: Whickness v Billingham Syn.

MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE;
Premier Divisions Astified Uti v Belper
Tr.: Density Util v Glasshoughton Wet.
GREAT BILLS LEAGUE; Premier Divlatous Frome In v Taumon In.

BISSI CULP: Send-dised replays Glanevon
v Portadown.
PONTINS LEAGUE: First Divisions Bolton v Wolverhampton (7.0); Notes County v
Birmingham C (7.0). Second Divisions
Blackpool v Port Vale (7.0); Existent C v
Hall (7.0); Grimpby v Barneley (7.0); Huddersited v Man C (7.0); Middlesbrough v
Ricthoritans (7.0); Sumberland v Burnley
(7.0); Third Divisions Lincoln v Denosstor
(7.0); Rochdele v Seunthorpe (7.0); Wegan
v Chesterfield (7.0).

ton v Wimbledon, Second Division: New-port AFC v Bournernouth; Swanses v Torquey (2.0). SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE Brenbord v Wycombe (2.30); Coichester Utis v Sutton Utis: Leyton Orient v Crewley Th; Northampton v Welling: West Ham Util v Peterborough (2.0); We-tingham 7n v Gillingham. Rugby Union COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

(7.45). CLARS MATCHES: Preston G v Wigan (5.30): Nuncation v Lutierworth.

WELLE CORRIGH SHEELD: Army v RAF
(3.0, Twickenham).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined
Ldn OB v Surrey (8.0, O Walcountlans). Rugby League NATIONAL POLICE CUP: Plant Manchester v Mer Police (3.0, Sal ALLIANCE: First Divisions (

Basketball BUDWEISER CHARPSONSHIP Guer-ter-finale, second legs Leopards v Man-chester (S.D): Sheffleld v Worthing.

Cricket THERE-DAY MATCHES (11.30): Per-mer'es Cambridge Univ y Glemorgan The Perkes Oxford Univ y Durham,

Andrew Ridley, a 27-year-old Australian at Caford, scored his melden inst-class contary as the University gave Leichtershire a scare in the opening game of the season at the Parks Ridley made 104 and the Leicostershire-standed lain Subtilife scored 65 as their seacond-wicker stand of 147 helped the students to within 28 runs of a tamous trumpsh.

The first four overs of the linal 20 yielded 40 runs as both leit-handors reached hall-cantaries and Leicostershiro were forced to poet five men around the boundary. Plerson eventually hook a great low catch at backward point to demies Sutellife, but Oxford chasing a target of 238 in 42 overs, did not lade until Ridley was caught at 202 for five. They were 212 for seven at the close.

The final day began with treahmen khan falling six runs short of a century on his debut as Oxford declared their first innings 92 runs behind, Lodestershire then scored 145 for three of 22 overs, with set in new captain James Whitaker, out first ball in the first lurings, making 47.

صكنا من الاجل



it double

### CRICKET: THE COUNTIES CAST THEIR VOTES FOR TWO ENGLAND SELECTORS

## Gooch stock rises as Lord's sweats on Beefy

Paul Weaver finds growing support for a executive Alan Smith. "T'm former Test captain and an England legend

tomorrow, and the counties have until midnight tonight to make up their minds, but there is already a sense of controlled panic around the corridors of happen: Ian Botham might be voted in as a Test selector.

power of his personality has also won him a number of committed followers as well as sworn enemies from within the game. Some counties also see a Botham vote as the best way of giving the chairman Ray Illingworth a bloody nose.

That would be a little un-

fair. Despite Illingworth's cussedness, and his consider able ego, he did not seize over all command of English cricket; he was given his un-precedented powers, as man-ager and chairman of selectors, by the Test and County Cricket Board, which in es-sence is the 18 first-class

This does not get him off the hook. The counties are frustrated and angry with their own myopia as much as any-thing else, and for this reason

The announcement will in there is a strong anti-liky lobby not be made until tomorrow, and the This could all be very good news for Botham and David Graveney. If the pair of them

were voted in tomorrow it would cause the chairman to panic around the corridors of the Test and County Cricket Board at Lord's. It just could happen: Ian Botham might be John Edrich, who are the oldvoice in as a Test selector.

Botham's popularity with the public has never been in doubt — Batman of Botham City, as Peter Tinniswood would have it — but the power of his personality has

sign that some of the countles
who each have two votes,
along with MCC and the
Minor Counties — would be
making a late decision today.
Support for Graham Gooch
was running high, and behind
him came the names of
Rotham Graveney Edvice. Botham, Graveney, Edrich and Bolus, followed by Chris Cowdrey, Rim Barnett and Geoff Miller.

The anti-Illy lobby appears to have been led by Warwick-shire. M.J.K. Smith, who man-

aged the tour to West Indies two years ago, has no reason to feel well disposed towards Illingworth, who after that unsuccessful winter was naturally preferred as the man to take charge of England's

The possibility of Botham becoming a selector brought a draw would leave the stiff smile and a sharp intake chairman Dennis SiB of breath from the TCCB chief liver the casting vote.

perfectly happy with all of them. All eight are very good people and I don't find it un-healthy to have that many candidates. It has created a lot of public interest, which is

Smith, in a letter to counties, reminded members that selectors have traditionally relinquished any media responsibilities. Illingworth himself and Ted Dexter are recent examples and Botham would be expected to follow

the same path.
Routine selectors, as posed to the chairman are currently paid 255 a day, which hardly compares with Botham's television and newspaper earnings. But he insisted: "I would love to serve on the panel because the biggest challenge now is to turn England into a world power again, I have been more serious about any-thing in my life." Both Gooch and Barnett

have the advantage of being current players, with Gooch's greater experience likely to see him do well; in his case, his county Essex have prom-ised to be flexible. In the event of a tie for

second place — "There's a fair chance of that happen ing," said Smith — the TCCB will organise another ballot involving only the two or more candidates who are locked together. A further draw would leave the TCCB chairman Dennis Silk to



Kim Barnett Age 35. Tests 4 (1988-89)

HIGHEST score of 80, against Australia in 1989. Nominated for whom he captained from 1983 when he was only 23, until last year when he stood down. One of Wisden's Cricketers of the



John Edrich Age 58. Tests 77 (1989-75)

AN Illingworth preference, the gritty former Surrey left-hander ner scored more than 5,000 Test runs, including 310 not out lingley in 1965. Captained England as deputy for Mike Dennes



Brian Bolus

Age 62. Tests 7 (1963-64) PRIVATELY, along with Edrich lilingworth's personal choice again — though that recommendation did not stop him losing nie job to David Graveney in las year's ballot. Played for York-shire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, all his Tests coming against West Indies and In India.



**Graham Gooch** Age 42. Tests 113 (1975-95)

NOMINATED by Essex and has backed Botham's candidature; both are respected by current professionals. Retired after 34 Tests as England captain in wake of poor 1994-95 tour to Australia; has highest England aggregate Cricketer of the Year in 1980.



Ian Botham

Age 40. Tests 102 (1977-92) ENGLAND's leading bowler (383 wickets) and one of the best allrounders ever (more than 5,000 Test runs). Initially a surprise nomination by Derbyshire and Northamptonshire but now com mitted to ending his restrictiv status as a tax exile. Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1978.



**David Gravency** Age 43. No Teets

SECRETARY of the Cricketers Association, the players' union which vetoed his attempt to replace illingworth as manager Somerset and Durham (never ingland); again nominated by



**Chris Cowdrey** 

Age 38. Tests 6 (1984-88) HAS been in marketing and consuitancy work since his retire-ment after career with Kent, whom he captained, and Glamorgan. Appeared in all five Tests on 1984 tour of India and led England to defeat in one Test against West Indies in crisis summer of 1988.



**Geoff Miller** 

Age 43. Tests 34 (1976-84) HAS made a career of afterdinner speaking since retiring as all-rounder for England, Essex and Derbyshire (captain in 1979-81), plus Natel in the winter of 1983-84. Nominated by Hampshire. Has represented native Derbyshire at ping-pong, which may come in useful.



ichard Johnson, the 21-year-old Middle-less fast bowler who missed England's tour of South Africa with a stress fracture to the back, has been formed out of the season's first forced out of the season's first serious fixture with a schoulder strain. He was due to play for The Rest against England A in a four-day match at Chemsford, starting on Saturday. Sussex's Jason Lewry, 25, takes his place.

Surrey suffered a net loss of 2315,154 last year after a profit of £270,000 had been projected, resulting in a perprojected, resulting in a per-received loss of almost £500.000. The county had hoped to receive Lottery money to im-prove facilities at the Vaux-hall End. Receipts from the Test match against West Indies were £1,255,835, with a further £369,420 from the one-day international.

Andrew Hudson made 94 off Andrew Hudson made 94 off 85 balls as South Africa, chas-ing 189, overwhelmed Paki-stan by eight wickets with 16.5 overs to spare in their Sharjah Cup match and se-cured a place in the final. The Jamaican opening bats-man Robert Samuels and the

Barbadian fast bowler Patter son Thompson are the only newcomers in West Indies' squad for the first Test against New Zenland starting in Bridgetown on Friday.



Unionising league . . . Scott Quinnell recalls his days as a Llanelli and Wales forward as he jumps at the chance of line-out practice with Wigan, preparing at their unpretentious training ground behind Central Park for a May 11 debut in the Middlesex Sevens and a 15-a-side date with Bath under union rules at Twickenham on May 25-HOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

#### Rugby League

### Nickle clear as **Matautia** waits

Paul Fitzpatrick

ONNY NICKLE, Bradforward, was yesterday cleared of foul play, after being placed on report during Sunday's Super League match against his former club St lelens at Knowsley Road.

The same sides meet in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley on Saturday captain on the tour of New week, and Saints are now Zealand in 1990. He will now anxiously awaiting the outcome of iomorrow's disciplinary hearing, at which Vila Matautia will appear.

Matautia was sent off late in the same game for alleg-edly using an elbow on Bradedly using an elbow on Brauford's Simon Knoz, who had
to be helped off. Anything
more than a one-match ban
would make the Western Sawould make the Western Sawould make the Western Sawestern Samoan union forword is expected to play in

Nickle, one of three players off-loaded by Saints when Bradford tomorrow night they signed Paul Newlove in after recovering from a knee they signed Paul Newlove in after recovering from a knee the record £500,000 deal in operation. He has made only November, was suspected of having kicked at an opponent. But he was cleared after the viewing of video evidence. Neil Cowie (Wigan), Bren-don Tuuta (Castleford), Daryl

Powell (Keighley), and Danny Russell (Carlisle) were also cleared, after being put on report at the weekend. So was George Mann of Leeds, but he has been ordered to appear again because television picked up a dubious challenge later in the game at Oldham. Mike Gregory, the former

Great Britain captain, has joined St Helens as assistant to the head coach Shaun McRae after finally being granted an early release by Salford. He was under contract at The Willows until June, and last month his appeal for early release failed, but the clubs have now agreed a compensation deal. Gregory, still only 31, was an outstanding Great Britain

time; his playing days, which were plagued by injury, are over.

Garry Schofield, assistant player-coach at Huddersfield.

Wigan's Alliance side against one appearance for Wigan since joining the club seven

months ago.
Wigan hope that Nigel Wright and Martin Offiah will be back in action by May 5, three days before the first challenge match against Bath at Maine Road, Manchester. Wright, the game's most tal-ented young stand-off, has been absent since September with damaged knee ligaments. Offiah suffered a bro-ken bone in his back in the Good Friday.

### **Muster tries**

### Queen's gambit harassed Hall

Tennis

HOMAS MUSTER, who lost his world No. 1 ranking to Pete Sampras last Sunthe Stella Artois Championship on the grass of Queen's Club from June 10 to 16. After Sampras and Andre

Agassi scorned his elevation to No. 1, the 28-year-old Austrian left-hander, who has won more than 90 per cent of his titles including one Grand Slam event — on clay, said: "I'm going to play more this year and that includes grass. I will not miss Wimbledon finis time." Sampras is to defend his title, and the early entries for the £466,666 tournament in-clude the former champions Boris Becker, Michael Stich, Wayne Ferreira, Stefan Ed-berg and Todd Martin. Britain's Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman also compete, and system and Jeremy Bates has a wild card. Steffi Graf returns after eight years to lead a strong ing Scot, was also warned, for field in the biggest and rich whacking the net, as he est Italian Open from May 6. | squandered a good lead Conchita Martinez, Arantza against Dariusz Sanchez Vicario, Iva Majoli, Gabriela Sabatini and Anke time in two days.

clay-court classic begins at the Foro Italico a week later compiled by hand at the finish.

Officials took half an hour longer to confirm the within a second and pro
"Tm sure it will be okay."

In would in the the foro Italico a week later and 18 of the world's top 20, including Sampras, compete for \$2.2 million.

(£621,000).

Huber compete for \$926,000

#### Badminton Penalty lifts

Richard Jago in Herning

DARREN HALL had to overcome filness, a dis-pute with the umpire, and the most dangerous first-round

opponent in the draw at the European Championships bere in Denmark yesterday. The third-seeded former European champion, troubled by a virus infection, with sore throat and giddiness, trailed 6-12 to the world No. 30 Pontus Janti, the Finn who helped put England out of the 1994 world team championships, but prevailed 15-12, 15-8.

Hall's row with the umpire flared up when he seemed un fairly penalised for touching the net in making a kill. He was given a warning but said later: "Adrenalin got into my system and I felt much better

Bruce Flockhart, the lead against Dariusz Zieba of Poland and lost for the second

Ruber compete for \$926,000
Anne Gibson, the first Scot to be seeded in a European women's singles and one of Great Britain's two women's singles players for the At-lanta Olympic Games, pru-dently withdrew yesterday to

#### Hockey

# for second win

Pat Rowley in Atlanta

W. W. W. W. W.

Entering

HE Great Britain men's team defeated Argen-tina, the Pan American champions, for the fifth time in six matches but this 2-0 win in the pre-Olympic event bere said more about their op-Nevertheless, their second

win here strengthened Brit-ain's hold on third place be-hind Pakistan and India in the six-team round-robin event before today's final game against South Korea. Russell Garcia and Rob Thompson, who both scored

when Britain last beat Argentina at Reading in November, were again the marksmen. Soma Singh came in at left-half for the injured Simon Hazlitt, David Luckes was preferred in goal and Mark Pearn was given a trial at centre-forward against the team at the bottom of the rankings.

Britain were at last allowed

to play on the main pitch at

Clark University, one of the

ner. Now that Britain were playing on a decent surface, perhaps the corner drills would be more efficient. Ca-him Giles managed to get in a nim Glies managed to get in a flick but it was saved at the expense of another corner. Glies again had his flick saved although the stick stop had been penalised anyway. Mayer set up a chance for Garcia but it was saved com-

fortably. Capurro was no more successful when he tested Luckes at the other end. Argentina had as many scoring opportunities by relying solely on breakaways.
They had the better chances before Britain switched their

fourth corner and Garcia dream victory. And the 1993 winner Eamonn Martin is the 47th minute.

The introduction of Shaw sparked a purple patch but it was not until the 66th minute that Mayer, popping up at centre-half, found Thompson unmarked at the top of the unmarked at the top of the tin Fiz for the world title in circle to score a second goal. Gothenburg last summer. CHILDE OF STATE OF LINCORE J WYSEE, J. Hallie: G Fordham, K Takher, Some Singh: C. Hayer. P. Garcia. M Pharm, J Lastet. N Thompson: Subset G Gilles, J Statev. P. Thompson: Subset G Gilles, J Chaw. R. Thompson: Amount Tolk

#### **London Marathon**

### Britain beef it up Costly challenge to Ceron hat-trick

DioNicio CERON is taking nothing for granted as he aims to extend his
supremacy in Sunday's London Marathon. The Mexican,
winner for the past two years, starts favourite for an unprec-edented hat-trick but he recognises the threat presented by one of the toughest fields in the 16-year history of the

It has cost El million to assemble it. German Silva, another Mexican and twice winner of the New York Marathon, and Belgium's

last year, has promised a "do-or-die" effort on the streets of the capital to achieve his

London and, if the conditions are right, I will be looking for a fast time. A world record, however difficult, is always in

terday that she expects a rousing challenge from Liz marathon] in Atlanta is too tered runners and 2,000 "ban-mcColgan: "She is improving near," Tanui said. Ezekiel Bial dits" in Monday's race—all the time. I see her as a big tok, Cosmas N'Deti and Lamore than three times the

"But at the same time we are all human. Everyone has their problems. I didn't feel good in the world championships last year, so in a marathon you can never predict the outcome."

Poland's Malgorzata Sobanska, the defending women's champion, said year terday that she expects a last the Boston Marathon on Monday, which Kenya the event in the Games.

Monday, which Kenya the event in the Games.

After the Boston Marathon on Monday, which Kenya the event in the Games.

Monday, which Kenya the event in the event in the Games.

Monday, which Kenya the event in the first woman the first woman Tecla Lor their first woman Tecla Lor their first woman Tecla Lor the finish line in Boston.

Monday, which Kenya

## Wincent Rousseau, the fastest man in the line-up, head the challenge. Britain's Paul Evans, fifth Duncen Mackay in Boston Trupmer-up Ezekiel Bitok's duce result sheets immediately the cold to your after the faring the

QUESTIONS were being asked last night about new technology due to be used in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday and this summer's Olympic the Atlanta Olympics.

Ceron, who lost a battle of 100th Boston Marathon on wills with the Spaniard Mar Monday were delayed for Gothenburg last summer, said: "I feel faster than the last two years. I will be doing my best for another win in London and, if the conditions 88,000 runners on their laces, did not match those

time than be took to run the race. But London will chips record the start, intermediate and finish times runners and will use a full as runners cross mats laid

by a former Dutch farmer. Wim Metjer, who saw that by utilising Radio Frequency Identification de-vices — used to keep track

It is claimed that, by using the system employed

back-up system.
The chip was developed by a former Dutch farmer, on the black carpet that was put over the mats to protect them. Julie Emmons, the assistant competitions manager for the Olympic Games,

was observing the system operating at the finish line and said that, despite the problems, she was confi-dent it would function

# SportsGuardian

As the Five Nations Committee issued an ultimatum to toe the line or face expulsion the RFU remained set on its own TV deal

# **England** given 10-day deadline

days to decide whether to toe the line of their part-ners in the Five. Nations Championship or condemn themselves to isola-tion. As the Rugby Football Union periesed to hadee in the own TV agreement with An-tenne 2, setting a precedent that has encouraged England determination to strike its own television deals. Wales. Scotland, Ireland and France yesterday issued a thinly veiled threat of exclusion

They said they intend to consider the future format" gested that the inclusion of England players in next year's Lions tour of South Africa might also be at risk.
The Five Nations Commit-

tee dismissed England's plans as "wholly unacceptable" and, in effect, issued an ultimatum: the RFU must either abandon its aim of going it alone by Saturday week, the

'We are not prepared to take 25 per cent and are going ahead with our plan'

date of the next Five Nations meeting in Dublin, or drop out of the championship from 1998 onwards. Italy could be invited to take England's

place. Since the start of the Five Nations Championship in 1910 no member has been expelled except France, from 1931 to

1947 over professionalism. Fred McLeod, who represents Scotland, made it clear that the principle of partnership — not just a wrangle over money - would be at stake when the current £27 million three-year deal with obliged to reappraise their pothe BBC expired in a year's time, "The unilateral decision by the RFU to negotiate its own broadcasting rights [is] a point of principle that would undermine the whole structure of the championship," he

England hit back sharply last night. John Jeavons-Fellows, one of their FNC negotiators, said: "I cannot contemplate any circumstances in which England will not par-ticipate in the Five Nations Championship. France have been doing their own TV thing for years. Are they in the Five Nations or not?

"We have been able to nego-tiate our own overseas right for six years. Why not at home? We are not prepared to the four home nations—
take just 25 per cent across the board and we are going ahead with our plan, which from the three-year 227 m was approved by the Rugby Union's full committee."

Tony Hallett, the RFU sec-retary, insisted his union's independent stance would not harm the championship. "We believe all unions will be able to benefit from our decision and the Five Nations will remain inviolate. We want a larger share of the cake because we have more mouths to feed in terms of clubs, many players as Wales, Scotland and Ireland together.

year TV contract with the Five Nations would be around £150 million. England will lay claim to £75 million, leaving the other three home unions to settle for £25 million each. France already negotiates its

ing all internationals stag at Twickenham. The current share-out of BBC money gives England 19 the other home unions getting 26 million each. France, traditionally secretive about TV and sponsorship income, is thought to receive around £10

to push for a contract cover

velopment programme in the world, claims it needs more money to implement a professional game than the other unions, many of whose players in any case are now trans-ferring to English clubs. Not surprisingly England plan to negotiate with a range

of companies including the BBC, ITV, BSkyB and cable television, to put together a package that includes terres-trial and satellite trans-mission. Next cases will almission. Next season will al-most certainly be the last in which two Five Nations matches are played at the same time, an arrangement that has prevented England from nego

Even so, it will take months of hard bargaining to break down the angry objections of the other unions and achieve a working compromise. Yesterday's FNC statement warned that relationships at all international representa tive levels would have to be considered. "This breakaway arrangements could have im plications for British Lions tours," it said. "The other unions of the FNC will now be

home matches

### DEFENDING CHAMPIONS STILL HOPEFUL IN ATHENS NEW LIGHT ON



Jump to it . . . Ajax's Jari Litmanen prepares for tonight's European Cup semi-final second leg PROTOGRAPH

### Ajax hope home nerves will fray

JAX's coach Louis van Gaal believes the high expectations of the Panathinaikos supporters may unsettle the Greek club and help his defending champions overcome their one-goal deficit in tonight's European Cup semi-final second leg in Athens.

"Greek fans consider Pan-athinaikos players as heroes after their win in Amsterdam," he said. "They want them to reach the final at any cost, and that will make them nervous."
Some 80,000 supporters are expected to pack the Olympic Stadium as Pan-

athinaikos attempt to reach | striker Krzysztof Warzythe European Cup final for cha, who scored his sixth the first time since 1971 when they were defeated 2-0 by Ajax.

Panathinaikos, returned to the top of the Greek league after their 1-0 victory over AEK, field their Polish international

goal of the tournament — "the most important of my The Dutch champions will be without their striker Patrick Kluivert. who injured a knee in a league match last weekend.

shirt-swapping and adultery the red, green-and-yellow, blue-and-white and the black



Vincent Hanna

easy time for me. Hon-estly, the trouble that simple things like adultery and changing your shirt in public can get you into. I don't want to talk about it. All right, you twisted my arm.
Rachel the therapist burst
into the shed yesterday. She
was beside herself—her
favourite position. "This is a
crisis," she snapped. "Your
daughter is under her bed sob bing about her new outfit, and your wife says she cannot forgive your 21-year-old himbo. All you can think about is

sport."
I tried to reason with ber.
"Look, Nick's sex life has
nothing to the with beating Greg. And there'll be a new white outfit next season This made her worse. She threw the fax machine at me and stormed out babbling about my gay lover who is into S & M. She should see a

All the same, I cannot shift my wife off the "main point of the Masters". All her friends agree with her, she says. Nick Faldo's sixth major counts for nothing because "he ran off with that floosie from

At nine o'clock on Sunday I was hunted out to the shed and the golf turned off. By 10.30 my family, and half the country, were glued to the sight of Greg Norman celebrating the anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic by running into an ice berg named Faldo. Thus sunk, Norman must have felt, as John Keats once did, Were I kick to come to the top. But the tut-tuts at b

were of wives scorned and bimbos honoured, and when I talked of Nick's focused play they hissed "adultery" from behind the toast-rack. No won der Rachel was confused. I changed the subject. "Look

ited's grey strip; the team is "What do you mean?" snapped Sinead, "How can you score when you look like

blind pygmies?"

I pointed out that she had purchased the said grey outfit from the United Superstore. Yes, she admitted, as she had

ones, each stencilled with the name Cantona at 75p per let-ter, a total investment of £157.21. "I know my duty to the team," she added, "but I hate the strip.'

A DOWNER

the strip."
Anyway. Umbro paraded in Manchester on Monday and explained that the grey outfit would be dropped and yet another one (all white) would replace it next season. Umbro is forking out 260 million over any ware to put the shurts on six years to put the shirts on Eric's back. But the company gets most of it back from the pocket-money of children, and thousands must feel ripped off.

The decision to dump grey was taken because, as Alex Ferguson explained, "the players couldn't pick each other out against the backeround of the crowd".

I sought the advice of Barney Tremblay, who specialises in Personal Presence and Confidence Skills and knows about colours. " am not at all surprised about the row," she said. "The plain when one does not want to be seen. The eye finds it difficult to focus on. fact is that one wears grey "Red, on the other hand, is

fresh and dynamic, it evokes the most positive reactions." She has a point. It may be a politically correct colour just now, but I can't ever see people standing at the Stret-ford End chanting: "Come on

the Greys!"
"Besides," Barney added,
"it is possible that some of the
team might be partially
colour-blind, Has anyone
tested them?"

UNNILY enough, the Leeds United a couple of months ago. The by Umbro, was changed from green-and-blue to yellow because the players said they couldn't see one another. However, England played

their last game against Bulgaria wearing a strip not unadjacent to the hated United grey, also made by Umbro. The players did not complain. Ponder this: maybe Terry Venables prefers the England team not to be seen. Or perhaps Umbro has invented a secret, invisible fabric for the

SAS and is using the left-over bits for football kit? Politicians might get sults made from the same material. I demand an answer from the Rt Hon Gentleman, or I would if I could pick him out. The

'Golfers could clothe their mistresses in it," I remarked. That went down like a Greg Norman final round.

amily thought that was a

boot.

### What's all the fuss about?

### Step by step guide to a rebellion

So what is all this about England being kicked out of the Five Nations? Put simply, the BBC's televi-sion deal comes up for renewal next year and England want a bigger slice of whatever the new cake is. At the moment France negotiate TV separately - receive an equal split

lion deal. What has sparked the argument? England have started talking to television companies on their own. The other nations smell a rat and are telling the RFU that if it doesn't agree to

do any deals through the nor-mal collective channels, with

the money split pretty much as before, England will be

kicked out and replaced with schools and players." England have roughly twice as So this is what they mean by professionalism? Basically this is about brinkWhat we are seeing is a giant game of chicken with a multi-million-pound prize for the side that refuses to swerve And if nobody swerves? A huge mess is guaranteed. England will be left to play zerland: no one will watch the "new" Five Nations; the TV companies will tell the game

sphere rugby union will col-lapse and the game will be laughing all the way to the bankruptcy courts. Surely no one is going to let that happen? It's about as likely as sacking the England captain a week before you set out for the World Cup. Or holding negoti ations that end with all your leading clubs withdrawing from league and cup competi-tions. Welcome to the weird world of rugby union.

manship. Both sides are making loud noises about their determination not to compromise, but the bottom line is that they need each other.

So why are England getting so cocky all of a sudden?

Cash. Sky have held tentative talks with England about what might happen when the BBC deal runs out next March, and though no figures are being mentioned the word is £130 million for five years for the Five Nations, with at least 50 per cent of that to England. Twickenham needs the money to fund its newly professional-ised set-up; none of the other unions really has that

How can England justify asking for so much? They say that because 70 per cent of the television audience is for England games, they should receive the lion's share of the money that TV gener-ates. England's popularity has upped the stakes and Twickenham claims that the rest will all receive far more money if they agree to Eng and's terms than they did under the old TV deal Look. say England, 121/2 per cent of £130 million is more than 20

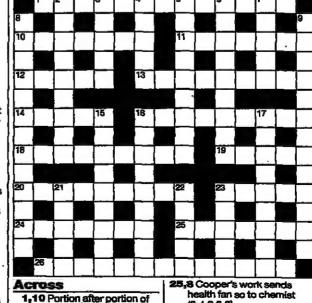
per cent of £27 million. Is the RFU case reasonable? Many believe so. It's the cackhanded way they have let the row boil over which is so absurd. Rugby league's Super League is taking off, club union is taking a hattering in the TV ratings, and all this just es the game look incompe tent and unp Where is the battle being

It all centres on a body called the Five Nations Committee which has traditionally nego-tiated British television rights for the tournament. In the past any money generated has been distributed roughly equally. What is going to happen

Compromise, of course, The next meeting of the Five Nations Committee is in Dublin on Saturday week and the smart money is on an England climbdown of some sort. But then the smart money was on Bath to beat Northampton last

#### **Guardian Crossword No 20.629**

Set by Araucaria



chips surrounding the queen will have coaches at sea (4-2-4-3,7) 11 Victim of Dutch invasion

do otherwise? (5)

13 Lateral section of team with experts? (4,5) 14 Dumb actor portrays

16 Monkey's blue in Munro's tale (4,5)

18 Massive boat for attractive fish? Very good (5-4) 19 Pierce Goon's ear (5) 20 Most of Spanish Town's

come back for a converter (9) 23 Stick with a flower or a fish (5) 24 Turn ravenous - turn away with ancrexia (7)

26 Cooper's work jumped onto

Down

2 Was no more, destroyed by females on river (9) 3 Ordinary people remained

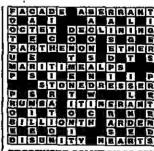
without it (5) 4 The striving of man is

5 Love clue and do it all right

6 Persists about member with order for standards in the 7 Artist in sport finds colour-

less liquid (5) 8 See 25

9 Bird on meadow, possibly a target for 2 (6,7)



15 Queen's part in your move — It's hers (5,4) 16 What's missing from late

21,22 To return thanks after

Solution tomorrow



We have seen many fine productions of Uncle Vanya in Britain. We tend to define them, however, by the casting of the vanquished Vanya and the ecological Astrov: Redgrave and Olivier, Gambon and Pryce, McKellen and Sher have formed unforgettable partnerships. But the key feature of Peter Stein's breathtaking new production is that it is Sonya and Elena who dominate the evening: it becomes the tragedy of two women.

17 Make au fait with situation, having crashed into a tree (9) unfinished block of houses made of clay and sand (10) 23 Revolutionary technological discovery (5)

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